

State of Hawai`i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

September 9, 2010

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A HEARING MASTER REPORT ON A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM, AND WITHDRAWAL OF PORTIONS OF GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS 1225 AND 1588 AND RE-SET ASIDE AS AN EXTENSION OF PUU MAKALA NATURAL AREA RESERVE, AND IMMEDIATE MANAGEMENT RIGHT-OF-ENTRY, FOR TMK (3) 2-4-08:09 (POR), SOUTH HILO, HAWAII

BACKGROUND:

A portion of TMK (3) 2-4-08:09 is proposed to be an extension of Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve (NAR), under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources. The proposal includes an area of approximately 6,600 acres in the South Hilo district of the island of Hawaii on the windward slope of Mauna Loa. This area is currently set aside to the Department of Public Safety (PSD) by Executive Orders 1225 and 1588, and is in the Resource and General Subzones of the Conservation District. Attachments 1 and 2 contain maps and a description of the important and unique resources that led to the nomination of this area as a NAR.

Kulani contains some of the highest-quality forest on the Big Island, and is the core of the remaining habitat for some of the island's most endangered bird species and many rare plants. Studies have shown that proximate areas contain the highest diversity of native arthropods of any area in the state, which indicates ecosystem health.

For many years, Kulani has been a top priority area for conservation. The Department of Public Safety and the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) have been working in Kulani with the Three Mountain Alliance watershed partnership since 1994. As a result, the entire parcel is fenced and ungulate-free. Thousands of endangered species have been outplanted in the protected area. After ungulate removal, staff documented successful regeneration of both forests and former pasture areas, and the area is one of only a few areas statewide that certain endangered forest bird populations are stable or increasing.

The NARS Commission, as part of its duties under HRS §195-7 to "Advise the governor and the department on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawaii's unique natural

resources,” prioritized Kulani as a biologically important area in 2008. In July 2009, the Department of Public Safety (PSD) announced the closure of the Kulani Correctional Facility and planned transfer to the State Department of Defense (DOD). In August 2009, the Commission nominated undeveloped portions of the property that are not part of the former prison campus as a NAR. In March 2010, the PSD responded to the DLNR NAR proposal with no objection to transferring portions of the parcel to the DLNR, but mentioned that they deferred to the DOD as to whether they require the proposed areas.¹

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission recommended the nomination on May 5, 2010. Approval to hold a public hearing was granted by the Board of Land and Natural Resources on June 10, 2010. Notice of public hearing was provided pursuant to HRS § 195-4(b) and a press release of the hearing was issued to newspapers and to public interest groups that requested the press release. Additionally, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) sent notices of this hearing to approximately 200 agencies, organizations, and individuals who were identified as interested parties (See Attachment 2, Section VI). A public hearing was held on July 12, 2010, from 6:30pm to approximately 9:00pm, pursuant to HRS § 195-4, where NARS staff and 71 members of the public attended. Attachment 3 contains the hearing master’s report as well as testimony received on the proposal. Fifty-five (83.5%) individuals/organizations expressed support of the NAR proposal, while five (7.5%) individuals opposed and six (9%) presented comments.

Individuals/Organizations in support of the NAR proposal:

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	Steven C. Hess
Hawaiian Silversword Foundation	Alan Holt and Deborah Armbruster
The Nature Conservancy	Nick Shema
Conservation Council for Hawaii	Diane Ware
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance	Dr. Ann Kubosa
Moku Loa Group/Sierra Club	Janice Palma-Glennie
Kat Brady, Community Alliance on Prisons	Shannon Rudolph
Sam Kaleleiki – Ohana Hoopakele	Mark Wasser
Ronald Fujiyoshi – Ohana Hoopakele	Karl Magnacca, Ph. D.
G.W. Naliko Markel-Hawaiian Kingdom	Mark Ingolia
Kelii Ioane	Joanne Martin
Sterling Robbins	Mardi Kay LaPrade
JB Friday	Ron Terry
Zach Judd	Christine Ogura
Edwin Ung	Lyman Perry
Joseph Camara	Don Drake, Ph. D.
Eldridge Naboa	Patrick Conant
John Peard	Renate Gassman
Chris Farmer	Lydia Garvey
Deborah Ward and Fred Stone, Ph. D.	Larry Katahira
Gregory Santos	Rick Warshauer

¹ By separate submittal to the Board, Land Division is presenting the request of the Department of Defense to have the remaining portion of the Kulani Correctional Facility set aside to DOD.

Christina Cornett
Sierra McDaniel
Cory Harden
Sheila Conant, Ph. D.
Tlaloc Tokuda
Thane Pratt, Ph. D.

Dan Taylor
Richard Camp
Brooks Rownd
Alan B. Burdick, Attorney
Rhonda Loh, Ph. D.
Linda Pratt

Individuals opposing the NAR proposal:

Nani K. M. Pogline
Glen Hisashima
Tetsuya "Grizzly" Yamada
Patrick Pacheco
Steven Araujo

Individuals offering comments:

Jim Albertini, President, Malu 'Aina Center for
Non-Violent Education & Action
Wayne Blyth, Chairman, Mauna Kea
Recreational Users Group
Calvin Kalewaihea
Danny Li
Kuulei Kiona
George DeCosta

ANALYSIS

A summary of the comments received is divided into categories below. The DOFAW analysis of certain issues raised follows each category.

1. Kulani's high-quality natural and cultural resources

- a. Forests and land are ancestors of native Hawaiians, and must be protected.
- b. Protecting flora and fauna allows unique cultural practices associated with these species to be perpetuated.
- c. The area contains the most diversity of native insects in Hawaii.
- d. One of only 5 areas in Hawaii where entire assemblage of extant native forest birds (except Palila) exists, and population stable or increasing likely due fencing and pig removal. Habitat corridor for birds/bats. Potential release site for the endangered Alala.
- e. Few weeds. Easier to maintain intact area than restore degraded areas.
- f. Free of mosquitoes that carry avian malaria and pox.
- g. Rare plants – 11 endangered species and critical habitat for 7 species. Hawaiian Silversword Foundation reintroduced more than 3,000 seedlings of endangered Kau silverswords and other endangered plants.
- h. Restoration protects forest from climate change, disease, and disturbance.
- i. Contains heritage old growth Koa forest, Hawaii's watershed.
- j. Link for high elevation wet to mesic forests that protect nearby lands such as the National Park and the Puu Makaala NAR.
- k. Contains new ecosystems that are not represented in the NARS.
- l. Irreplaceable wahi pana area.
- m. 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, celebrate with NARS.
- n. Large investment from inmates and other agencies to manage area.

Extending the Puu Makaala NAR would afford long-term protection to an area of outstanding habitat quality and biodiversity, and where significant conservation management has already occurred. Designation would also facilitate other conservation efforts in the region, strengthening the existing Reserve and adjacent partnership lands.

2. Comments on the Natural Area Reserves System

- a. NARS most appropriate because is highest level of management, facilitates management with existing Reserve and TMA, protects public investment. NAR designation is urgent in time of transition.
- b. NARS doesn't protect forest – bulldozes to cut fence lines, uses herbicides, kill animals and leaves them to rot.
- c. NARS have mostly remained static in size for more than 2 decades, this won't have substantial start-up costs as area already managed. Current staff and budget of the NARS will not be burdened by expansion.
- d. NARS experiencing budget problems – should withdraw degraded areas from Puu Makaala NAR back into Forest Reserve to enhance public access and focus protection efforts in high-quality native areas.
- e. If Kulani not a NAR, would become Forest Reserve and management may languish especially with degrading fences and ungulate ingress.
- f. NARS not needed as there are no future plans for improvements for use of lands or changes in conservation status.
- g. NARS meeting inconvenient (in Volcano, not Hilo) and staff didn't speak in common terms so public could understand. The Board meeting should be in Hilo to allow the public to participate.
- h. NARS meeting was a good start for community-based planning, instead of top down, closed door planning. NARS should carefully watch the DOD.
- i. Illegal take over of crown lands, don't recognize the legitimacy of government.

The Mission Statement of the Natural Area Reserves System states that the NARS “exists to ensure the highest level of stewardship for Hawaii’s unique natural resources through acquisition, active management, and other strategies.” Large conservation projects have already been completed in the entire parcel, such as fence construction and ungulate removal. It is very important that NARS staff and partners have continuing management access to entire parcel to routinely check fencelines, control weeds, and monitor status of endangered species populations. Extending the Reserve would also facilitate management of the existing Puu Makaala Reserve.

The NARS meeting was held in the closest population center to the affected area. Staff offered a question and answer session prior to receiving testimony to clarify the proposal.

3. Suggestions for appropriate public use

- a. NAR is appropriate as it allows only small groups and non-motorized access. Will increase access for limited and appropriate public use – birding, school groups, volunteers, cultural practices, research, continuation of horticultural program, and provide conservation education.
- b. NAR designation is not a loss to hunters, as it is already fenced.
- c. NARS ignores the rights of off-road vehicle users and local hunters, will only allow conservationists access. NAR designation changes lifestyles and hurts those who have to eat [feral animals].

- d. Reasonable public vehicular access needed to and through the proposed NAR. Public entitled to visit former Forest Reserves. Jurisdiction of roads should be with DOFAW, exclusive of NAR control.
- e. Unregulated vehicular traffic leads to disruptive noise, physical disturbance and introduction of weeds and coqui frogs and is not conducive to protecting the sensitive natural resources of a Reserve or endangered species.
- f. The public should have full access without any restrictions to hunting, fishing, hiking, herbal gathering and family gatherings.
- g. Get beyond out-moded idea of multiple use on every acre of state land; instead, protect remaining native forests.

NAR designation will increase public access, which has been restricted. NARS rules allow small-group hiking and nature study, as well as other activities if users receive a permit, subject to restrictions in HAR §13-209. If the area becomes a NAR, a management plan will be developed and provide additional public input opportunities. In the plan, NARS will need to analyze the different types of public access needs and their effects. Major management activities involve control of alien species, including ungulates, weeds, and small predators, rare plant outplanting, monitoring, public outreach, maintenance of existing infrastructure, such as trails and signs, and applied research.

4. Larger conservation issues in Hawaii

- a. History of people in Hawaii is written in the land – future should show that we took care of it, and show how it is instead of saying how it was.
- b. Less than 40% of native habitats remain in Hawaii, and are lost daily.
- c. Birds can come back to old pasture when trees are restored. Ten Hawaiian bird species have gone extinct in the last 20 years. Captive facility efforts will be in vain if there are no pristine forests to release birds back into.
- d. Don't blame pigs for mosquitoes – humans make breeding pools too.
- e. Conservationists not honest and don't know Hawaii's past – there were four-foot birds that grazed forests like ungulates [that may fulfill niche].
- f. Lights kill birds – if you turn off the lights the birds will live.
- g. Kipuka Ainahou Nene Sanctuary is unfenced and degrading from sheep.

The Natural Area Reserves System was established to preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawaii. While NARS is based on the concept of protecting native ecosystems and biological diversity, as opposed to single species, many individual rare and endangered plants and animals benefit from the protection efforts through NARS. The NARS is an active member of the Three Mountain Alliance to protect forested watersheds for water recharge and other ecosystem services through collaborative management on a scale that crosses landownership boundaries.

5. Requests to change the proposed NAR boundary to include internal area

- a. Internal area should be education/conference center or a Puu Honua wellness rehabilitation center or reopen the prison instead of DOD. Area is

- the only 2WD access to good forest bird habitat. Inmates helped with restoration and DLNR cannot rely on youth to care for priceless forest.
- b. DOD effectively regulates access as their area contains the road. Access would technically be allowed to the Reserve, but only via very long hikes - as much as it takes to get there now by those trespassing. DOD use would create an additional hurdle for researchers.
 - c. DOD would bring weeds to pristine areas, and create road traffic, noise, which is inappropriate for the middle of a Reserve. Their proposed uses are inconsistent with existing plans and Conservation District Use Permits.
 - d. Addition to NARS should include northern pasture area, Mauna Loa Boys School, and roads. NARS have similar areas that are degraded, the additional areas would be a buffer and make the Reserve cohesive. Pasture is surrounded by intact forest, is a hub for nene, and contains endangered forest birds and plants not known from other areas, and is regenerating naturally. Good to attract Nene to pasture area rather than populated areas in Volcano.
 - e. Investing in DOD infrastructure is risky due to lava flow hazard in area.
 - f. If Youth Challenge Academy uses it, should only permit education and native forest restoration. DOD should only limit activities to the buildings.
 - g. Past military use: Mauna Loa Boys School was used as unauthorized assault helicopter training by military, aerial shooting resulted in loss of 27 head of cattle at Kulani ranch which were never recovered. Army is requesting access to do UXO testing and removal in Kulani due to former military use. DLNR gave the Army lease along Stainback to do "weather testing" but actually tested chemical weapons such as nerve gas GB. It killed wildlife and could have killed inmates if the winds shifted.
 - h. There are 57 present and former military sites in Hawaii in need of clean up of UXO and toxins, army should clean up rather than adding new sites.
 - i. No other proposals suggested or hearings held on alternative uses for the former prison site. DLNR permitted DOD to use area without public input.
 - j. Kulani is Crown land and should be returned to the Hawaiian Kingdom.

In a May 26, 2010 letter, the DOD offered the DLNR 6,600 acres, excluding the main facility, pasture areas immediately above the facility, and 6 acres of the Mauna Loa Boys school from the NAR proposal. DOFAW maintains that NAR designation for the areas that are agreed upon by the agencies and shown in Attachment 1 are the most urgent and high priority. Those 6,600 acres should be set aside as soon as possible to ensure the conservation management continues.

In areas within the parcel excluded from the NAR proposal, access through a management agreement for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, is needed for management purposes such as fence maintenance, invasive species control, and monitoring endangered species to protect the NAR and adjacent areas. Compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act and HRS § 195D is applicable as endangered species exist throughout the entire parcel.

6. Requests for the Correctional Facility to reopen or become a Puu Honua

- a. Ohana Hoopakele wants to establish a modern day Puu Honua in Kulani Prison. A Puu Honua is a place of refuge, healing, and wellness.
- b. Closing the prison was chaotic and without prior public or staff notice.
- c. Kulani Correctional Facility played a very important role in protecting area and should continue. Kulani one of most successful minimum security prisons, Hawaii needs more prison beds.
- d. Shutting down Kulani only saved \$2 million – but other projects exceed their budgets way more. Kulani was revenue-producing.

Staff from the DLNR and TMA have decades of conservation and vocational training experience with the Department of Public Safety and inmate work crews. Existing infrastructure and high-quality native forest can continue to serve as classrooms and work sites, making Kulani an ideal site for training in resource management. Designation of portions of the Kulani site as a NAR will provide a foundation for continued conservation work, training, and service learning programs at the site in partner with the Youth Challenge programs or any future facility operator.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

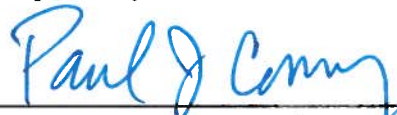
This action before the Board is to transfer management jurisdiction to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and does not constituted a use of State lands or funds, and therefore, this action is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 343, HRS, relating to environmental impact statements. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife shall be responsible for compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, as amended for NARS use of the land. Pursuant to HAR § 11-200-8, foreseeable uses of the State lands by the NARS fall under Exemption Class 1 of the “Exemption List for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,” reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on June 12, 2008 including “operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing.”

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

- 1) Accept the Hearing Master Report (Attachment 3).
- 2) Approve of and recommend to the Governor issuance of an executive order withdrawing portions of Governor’s Executive Order Nos. 1225 and 1588 as shown in Attachment 1, and subject to the following:
 - a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current executive order form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - b. Disapproval by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of either the House of Representatives or the Senate or by a majority vote by both in any regular or special session next following the date of the setting aside;
 - c. Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
 - d. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

- 3) Approve of and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an executive order setting aside a portion of Tax Map Key (3) 2-4-08:09 as shown in Attachment 1 to the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, for the extension of Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by reference incorporated herein and subject further to the following:
- a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current executive order form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - b. Disapproval by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of either the House of Representatives or the Senate or by a majority vote by both in any regular or special session next following the date of the setting aside;
 - c. Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
 - d. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.
- 4) Grant an immediate management right-of-entry to the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, its consultants, contractors and/or persons acting for or on its behalf, over a portion of Tax Map Key (3) 2-4-08:09 as shown in Attachment 1 under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by reference incorporated herein and subject further to the following:
- a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current right-of-entry form as may be amended from time to time;
 - b. This management right-of-entry is effective upon the full execution of the right-of-entry permit and Applicant's submission or required insurance if applicable, and shall continue until the executive order is issued; and
 - c. The Department of Land and Natural Resources reserves the right to impose additional terms and conditions at any time if it deems necessary while this right-of-entry is in force.

Respectfully Submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



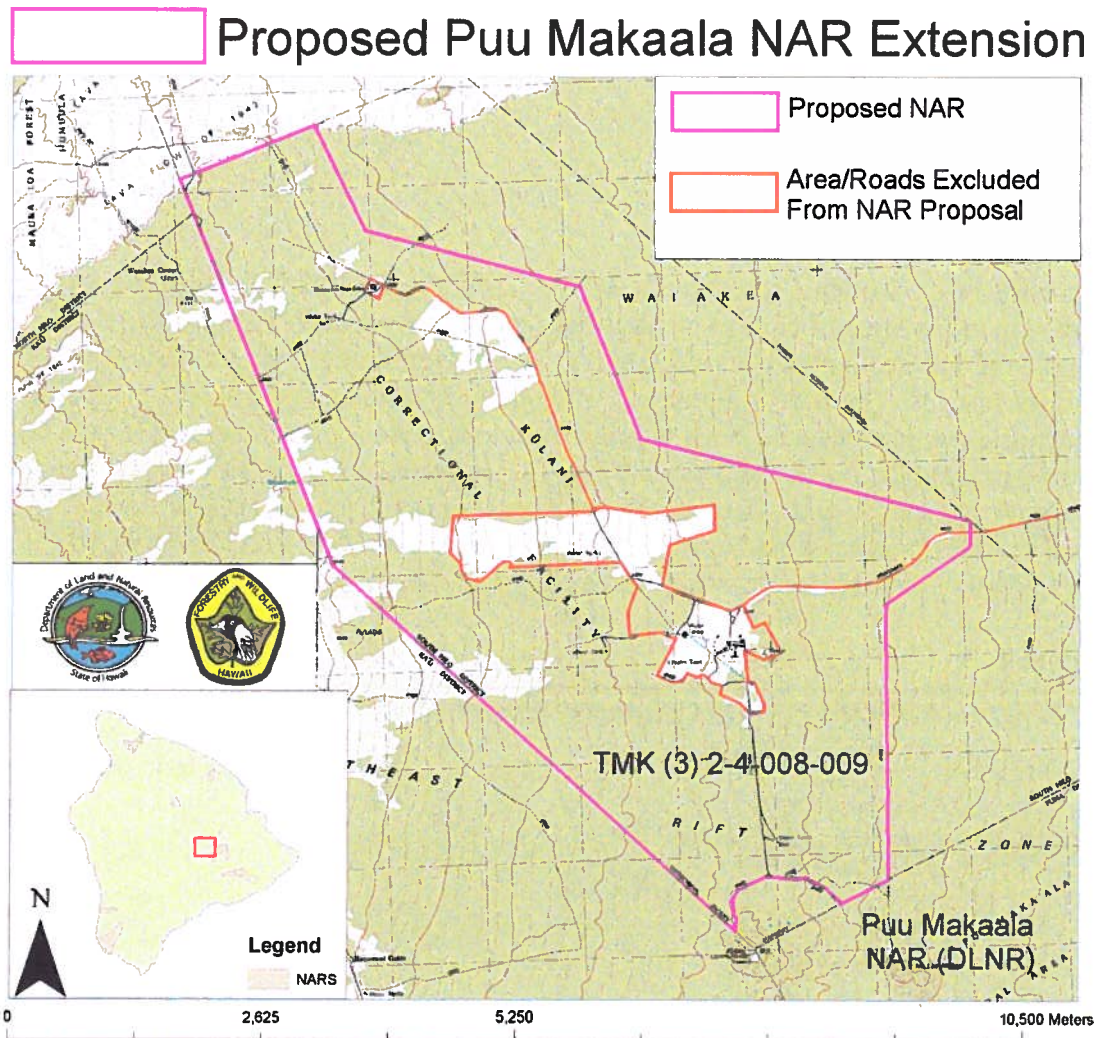
LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson

Attachment 1: Map of Proposed NAR

Attachment 2: Proposal for the Extension of Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve

Attachment 3: Hearing Master Report and Testimony

Attachment 1. Map of Proposed Puu Makaala NAR Extension



Final survey will determine exact boundaries, map contains approximate location and is subject to change.

Attachment 2



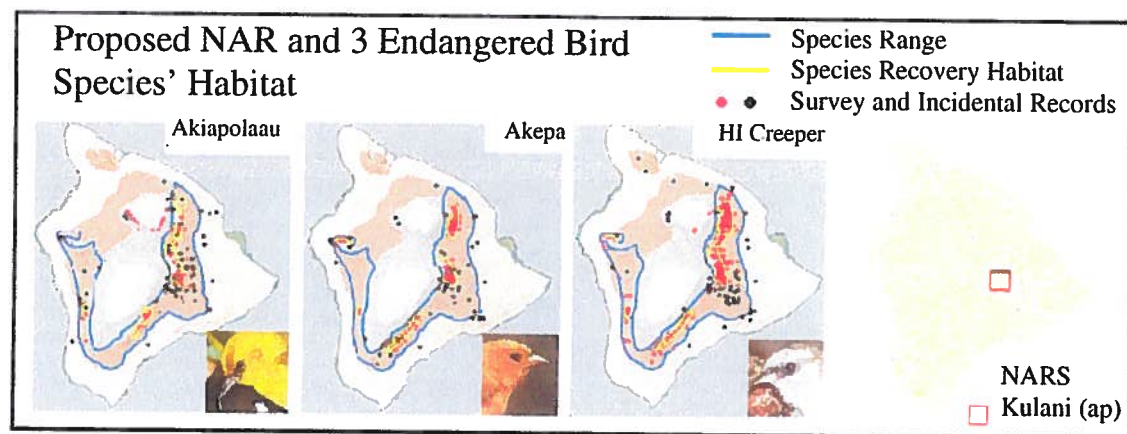
PROPOSAL FOR THE EXTENSION OF PUU MAKAALA NATURAL AREA RESERVE

August 2010

I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A portion of the Kulani Correctional Facility, TMK (3) 2-4-08:09, is proposed for inclusion in the State of Hawaii Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). This proposed NAR would protect approximately 6,600 acres adjacent to the former Kulani Correctional Facility campus. The NAR proposal does not include the developed site of the facility. Extending the Puu Makaala NAR would afford long-term protection to a core area of outstanding habitat quality and biodiversity for endangered species (see Figure 1 and Appendices 1 and 2) and where significant conservation management has already occurred. Designation would also facilitate other conservation efforts in the region, strengthening the existing NAR and adjacent partnership lands.

Figure 1.



Mitchell *et al.*, 2005

II INTRODUCTION (General)

A portion of the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), on the windward slope of Mauna Loa, is proposed to become part of the State of Hawaii Natural Area Reserve System in the South Hilo district of the Big Island of Hawaii. Access to the entire 7,244.27-acre KCF is currently restricted to the general public as part of the management of the Kulani Correctional Facility, however, if portions were designated a NAR, those areas would be regulated by HAR § 13-209-3 which permit, among other activities, "Hiking and nature study of group size of ten or less are permitted except where restricted pursuant to sections 13-209-4.5 and 13-209-4.6."

This proposed extension of Puu Makaala NAR contains montane wet and mesic ecosystems. Landcover analyses have shown the parcel to contain large tracts of open and closed Koa/Ohia and Ohia forests, with smaller patches of Mamane/Naio forests (USDOI, 2006). These ecosystems contain 11 known endangered plant species, and Federal Critical Habitat is designated for seven plant species within the parcel. This parcel is part of a corridor of high elevation native forest that provides habitat for the endangered Hawaiian Goose, nene, (*Nesochen sandwichensis*), Hawaiian Bat, opeapea, (*Lasiurus semotus cinereus*), Hawaii creeper (*Oreomystis mana*), Hawaii akepa (*Loxops coccineus*), Akiapolaau (*Hemignathus munroi*), Hawaiian Dark Rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*), and Band-rumped Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (Candidate) (OKP, 1999).

Adjacent to the southern boundary of the property is Puu Makaala NAR, which was designated in 1981 for its high quality montane ecosystems, high biodiversity, and geological features. The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Three Mountain Alliance has partnered with the Kulani Correctional Facility to co-manage this area on a landscape scale to protect the rare species and important natural habitats that span property boundaries.

In July 2009, the Department of Public Safety announced the closing of the correctional facility and a proposal with the State Department of Defense to create a Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) in the facility, run by the Hawaii National Guard. This transition of management of the facility is an opportunity for careful planning and decision making for the appropriate management of this high-priority conservation area.

III BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Past and Present Land Use

The southern section of the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) was established as Upper Olaa Forest Reserve in 1913, and the northern sections were proclaimed the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve in 1923. In 1948, Executive Order (EO) 1224 withdrew 5,600 acres of the Upper Waiakea and Upper Olaa Forest Reserves to be set aside as the Kulani Prison Farm (EO 1225) under the control and management of the then-Department of Institutions. EO 1588 set aside an additional 2300.27 acres of Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve to add to the Prison Farm in 1953. In 1981, EO 3092 withdrew 656 acres of the southernmost part of the prison set aside that surrounds Kulani cone to become part of the Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve.

The proposed extension of Puu Makaala NAR is currently set aside to the Department of Public Safety (PSD), which operated a correctional facility in developed portions of the 7,244.27-acre KCF. The work camp began in 1946 and has grown to include a 200-bed facility. For years, approximately 900 acres of the parcel were used as pastures for cattle grazing and a piggery for job training in agricultural industries. There general public has had restricted access to this area as part of the management of the Correctional Facility.

The Department of Public Safety and the DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife joined the Olaa-Kilauea Partnership in 1994 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. In 2007, that partnership expanded to become the Three Mountain

Alliance (TMA). TMA works through partnering to expand watershed protection and management to over one million acres across the volcanoes of Mauna Loa, Kilauea and Hualalai, thus making it the largest cooperative land management effort in the state of Hawaii. Three Mountain Alliance and the Department of Public Safety have implemented conservation projects to successfully protect Kulani from ungulates and have worked to control invasive plant species. This includes fencing the entire Kulani parcel combined with units in the Puu Makaala NAR and vicinity. Please see *Appendix 4: Map of Existing Fences at Kulani Correctional Facility and Vicinity*.

Since 1994, Kulani has provided important in-kind support for TMA projects by providing staff and inmate assistance with critical conservation activities. TMA work at Kulani includes fence maintenance, pig control, weed control, native habitat restoration, and providing work training to Kulani inmates.

Partnership activities at Kulani are guided by:

- TMA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in 2007. This MOU replaced the Olaa Kilauea Partnership MOU which was signed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in 1994 and 2001.
- TMA Management Plan (2008) (www.hawp.org), and Final Environmental Assessment and Management Plan for the Olaa - Kilauea Partnership (1999).
- Wetland Restoration Project (within and around Mauna Loa Boy's School) approved for implementation by the DPS (June 2000).
- Kulani is within the State Conservation District which regulates land use for the purpose of conserving, protecting, and preserving the important natural resources of the State. Environmental compliance is required for projects occurring in the Conservation District.

Accomplishments:

- Since 1995, the TMA has provided a Conservation Workline supervisor. Kulani inmates and staff have provided a large cost savings to the TMA by assisting with fence construction, bulldozing fence corridors and other conservation projects, and inmates have received vocational training.
- The Partnership purchased fence materials and provided environmental compliance for Kulani boundary fencing to reduce trespass into the facility and benefit the environment.
- The Partnership removed feral pigs from Kulani and released pigs in a public hunting area to benefit hunters. Pig control has important conservation benefits and has also reduced hunter trespass into Kulani.
- Partnership staff provided inmates with an Environmental Studies Program during 2000 and 2001. Classes covered environmental topics, Hawaiian cultural practices, and job tips.
- The Partnership assisted with paving a portion of Stainback Highway.
- The TMA established a Kulani native plant horticulture program to provide inmate education and to propagate native plants for restoration and landscaping.

The TMA provided funding for greenhouse construction, partial support for a horticultural instructor, and supplies. In 2008, inmates propagated over 2,700 native plants for TMA reforestation projects. They also assisted with forest restoration by planting over 1,000 native plants in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, landscaped the Kulani visitor center, and provided over 500 plants for the Volcano Art Center Forest Fair.

- The TMA has assisted Kulani with biological surveys required for environmental compliance including development of the sewage treatment facility.
- The TMA was nationally recognized in May 2009 with the Partners in Conservation Award by the Department of the Interior. The award is one of the highest established to recognize conservation achievements. It enables the Secretary to acknowledge in one award the contributions of both Interior and non-Interior personnel, recognizing outstanding conservation results produced primarily because of the engagement of many partners, specifically highlighting the partnership with the correctional facility.
- Annual forest bird surveys have been conducted since 1977 by Kamehameha Schools, DOFAW, the National Park Service, the USGS, and the USFWS in Kulani-Keauhou and other nearby areas.
- The Hawaii Silversword Foundation (HSF) has outplanted 3,093 silversword (*Argyroxiphium kauense*) seedlings in the Boys School Unit at Kulani Correctional Facility. HSF has also outplanted 1,743 *Clermontia peleana* seedlings and *Cyanea shipmanii*, *C. stictophylla*, *Phyllostegia racemosa*, and *Vicia menziesii* in and immediately adjacent to Kulani in the Puu Kipu Unit. These species are all endangered.

Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) staff are already highly involved in implementing these conservation projects, as well as planning for future protection of this area. While much of the costly management activities, such as fence construction and ungulate removal, have already been completed, maintenance of infrastructure is needed in the future. This area is appropriate for extensive restoration of endangered plants since it is one of only a few such areas protected from pigs and cattle. Control of new or incipient weed invasions is needed to prevent degradation of the area. Management success has already been demonstrated with koa and ohia forest restoration occurring in areas relieved from feral ungulate pressure and the removal of domestic cattle from former pastures in 2005. The TMA management plan highly prioritizes the continued need for management of this area.

Cultural/Recreational Uses

The State Historical Preservation Division noted in 1998 that there were no known records of archeological surveys in this area, and predicted that few sites would be found in the forested area which is well inland of the zone of pre-contact Hawaiian permanent settlement (OKP, 1998).

In 2004, a cultural study of the Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve was conducted for the NARS. This study included cultural information on uses, beliefs, etc that also could apply to Kulani, such as:

Kū-ka-‘ōhi‘a-Laka, is a defied guardian of the ‘ōhi‘a growth of ‘Ōla‘a; Ua-kuahine, is the body form of a goddess of the rains in ‘Ōla‘a; and Kū-lili-ka-ua is the god of the thick mists that envelop the forests of the upper Puna.

(Kumu Pono Associates, 2004)

This cultural study also documents traditional accounts, bird catching practices, visitor descriptions from the historical period, land tenure documents, surveys and government communications about this area and may be found at: <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/nars/reserves/big-island/puumakaala>

The Puu Oo trail also crosses a part of the northern area of the proposed Reserve, which was a historic cattle crossing route.

Previous Studies

This area has been surveyed for biological resources including vegetation and endangered plant species, forest bird populations, avian diseases, yellowjacket wasps, and alien plant and ungulate levels. The following text in this section summarizes a 2003 informational document by the Olaa-Kilauea Partnership on studies done in Kulani:

USGS-BRD researchers have conducted annual surveys of endangered, native, and alien bird species at Kulani since 1992 to assess bird distribution and status (OKP, 2003). This data also provides valuable baseline information to evaluate the long term trends of native species to management actions (e.g. feral ungulate removal, predator removal, and alien plant removal). USGS-BRD Researchers mist-netted birds and sampled blood and collected mosquitoes in the Mauna Loa Boys School enclosure from 1992-1994 (Gorresen *et al*, 2005). They have also sampled mosquitoes inside and outside fenced, pig free enclosures at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Recent research has focused on determining the distribution and disease vector potential of mosquitoes, the prevalence of pox and malaria in native and introduced birds at different elevations, and the effect of reducing feral pig numbers on mosquito populations. The conclusions of the research are as follows (Atkinson *et al*. 1995; LaPointe 1996):

- Distribution of pox and malaria is dependent on elevation and mosquito abundance, and higher prevalence occurs at lower elevations with higher mosquito populations. At higher elevations, cool temperatures limit number of mosquitoes and inhibit development of malarial parasites in the vector. Transmission of both diseases is seasonal, with peaks during warmer months of the year when numbers of mosquitoes are highest.
- Primary reservoir hosts are native species, particularly apapane. Iiwi have low prevalence of infection because of their high susceptibility to malaria (most die before they can be captured).
- Outbreaks are epizootic in nature, involving large numbers of susceptible birds. Researcher documented outbreaks in 1992 and 1994. Factors controlling these outbreaks are complex, involving rainfall, temperature and abundance of uninfected, susceptible hosts.

Preferred breeding sites for mosquitoes are associated with fallen tree ferns that have been hollowed by pigs. Starch in the core of trees ferns is a major food source for

pigs. The presence of mosquito breeding sites decreases in pig-free fenced units (Lease *et al.* 1996).

USGS-BRD is testing alien wasp control methods and studying the non-target impacts of wasp control on picture wing *Drosophila* flies. Personnel have performed surveys in Kulani and the National Park to monitor wasps and native invertebrates, and to evaluate the effectiveness of poison baiting, and nest removal. Poison baiting has been shown to be effective, and comparison of Kulani with similar upper elevation portions of the National Park indicates that the general absence of wasp nests at Kulani is better for native birds and insects. USGS-BRD personnel have also assisted Kulani with the removal of yellowjacket wasp (*Vespula pensylvanica*) nests which are hazardous to staff and inmates.

Biologists have collected data along transects at Kulani on the absence/presence of all alien plant species. NPS staff have done extensive monitoring in the Partnership area to show the recovery of native forests following pig removal.

IV JUSTIFICATION (Specifics)

Scientific Value

This area is of high scientific value and has been used as a research site for many studies. Kulani provides a study site to test the effectiveness of management activities such as outplanting, invasive weed control and predator control in areas protected from ungulates.

Representativeness

This area would help complete the NAR System by including representative samples of montane mesic and wet ecosystems on the windward slope of Mauna Loa. The montane mesic ecosystem in this ecoregion is not represented in any other NAR, and contains many endangered species that are not found in the other NARs that contain this ecosystem.

While Puu Makaala NAR is adjacent and contains similar wet ohia/hapuu forest, the proposed Kulani parcel contains larger tracts of wet koa/ohia forest, which are generally found on older substrates (OKP, 1999). As Kulani is more mauka (upland) of Puu Makaala NAR, there are many other natural communities not found in the NAR. The western section contains tall stature koa/ohia – dominated forest with other native trees, shrubs, hapuu ferns, and ground fern understory (OKP, 1999). Young-intermediate aged lava flows of Kulani contain a mesic ohia forest and an understory of native trees, shrubs, ferns and grasses without the prominent hapuu component (OKP, 1999). Dry native shrub with scattered ohia and dry ohia forest with mixed native trees and native shrub understory natural communities cover mauka areas (OKP, 1999).

Smaller unique natural communities in Kulani include low stature ohia with native trees, shrubs, and the native grass *Deschampsia nubigena* (OKP, 1999). In wetter areas, there are small pocket bogs created by depressions in the lava flow surface, and small wetlands composed primarily of the sedge *Carex alligata* (OKP, 1999).

Endangered plants of KCF not currently known in the Puu Makaala NAR include the *Argyroxiphum kauense*, *Asplenium fragile* var. *insulare*, and the *Plantago hawaiiensis*.

Additionally, the ecosystems of Kulani are important for the representation of forest bird habitat, especially as climate change is forecasted to increase disease vector ranges. Kulani has some of the highest densities of native forest birds areas on the island and is very important as most of the area is above 5,000 feet, where climate restricts mosquitoes and development of malarial parasites (US DOI, 2006). This area has been designated an "Important Bird Area" by the Audubon society, as one of the most important remaining concentrations of endemic Hawaiian birds, including populations of four species that are endemic to Hawaii Island and are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (National Audubon Society, 2009). This area is also immediately adjacent to a potential Alala release site.

Researchers have documented various soil microarthropods, damselflies (*Megalagrion*), picture wing (*Drosophila*) flies, and common *Succenia* tree snails. Lava tubes may harbor additional undocumented invertebrates (OKP, 1999).

Natural Communities and their Status

Kulani contains dry, high-elevation communities in various ages of lava substrate, in addition to the wetter forests and wetlands also found in Puu Makaala NAR. Landcover analyses and many years of field work have shown the parcel to contain large tracts of intact open and closed Koa/Ohia and Mamane/Naio forests (US DOI, 2006). While these tracts are of very high quality and intactness, certain areas were converted to pasture and other prison-related activities. However, large areas of native trees remain in some of the former pasture areas, and with cattle removal in 2005, regeneration of native forest is already occurring. This is an ongoing restoration site as the areas are surrounded by high-quality native forest.

Rarity

See Appendices for lists of rare species known from this area. Federal Critical Habitat is designated for seven species of plants in Kulani. This area is also within the current ranges and Recovery Area for the Hawaii Creeper, Akiapolaau, and the Hawaii Akepa (USFWS, 2006).

The protection of this area from ungulates and the horticulture program at Kulani Correctional Facility facilitates reforestation. A large outplanting program has increased species populations, such as for the Mauna Loa silversword, *Argyroxiphium kauense*, which is only known from three sites in the wild (OKP, 2003).

Biological/Ecological Design

The boundaries of this proposed NAR are meant to extend the current Puu Makaala NAR into more mauka (high elevation) forests that support high densities of forest birds, and unique endangered plant species. By encompassing a larger area over more diverse types of habitat, the extended Puu Makaala NAR will be a more complete representation of the natural communities of that area. The NAR will also be more defensible as a larger contiguous area is designated and managed for long-term ecosystem preservation.

Location and Size

The Kulani Correctional Facility is 7,244.27 acres, however, only portions of the property are proposed as a NAR extension. These portions largely correspond to undisturbed

areas. This proposed NAR would protect approximately 6,600 acres adjacent to the former Kulani Correctional Facility campus. The NAR proposal does not include the developed site of the facility. The area is identified by TMK (3) 2-4-08:09, and is approximately 6 miles long and 3 miles wide at its widest point. The elevational gradient is from approximately 4,600ft elevation to 6,229ft.

Neighboring the proposed reserve to the north and east is the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve. To the west are lands owned by Kamehameha Schools. To the south is Puu Makaala NAR.

Threats (Human/Biological)

While the area is fenced and pig free, mouflon sheep and goats may be a threat as their numbers increase in the state lands to the north (OKP, 2003). Pigs are still a threat to the area if fences are not regularly maintained as high populations of pigs occur in Forest Reserve lands to the east.

The TMA has identified the following high priority weeds for the entire partnership area: miconia (*Miconia calvenscens*), firetree (*Morella faya*), banana poka (*Passiflora tarminiana*), yellow Himalayan raspberry (*Rubus ellipticus*), and strawberry guava (*Psidium cattleianum*). The 1989 Management Plan for the Puu Makaala NAR also included Palm grass (*Setaria palmaefolia*), blackberry (*Rubus argutus*), Kahili ginger (*Hecychium gardnerianum*) and clidemia (*Clidemia hirta*), and Firetree (*Myrica Faya*) as priority weed threats. Ohia dieback is not a threat, but gaps provide openings for subsequent weed invasions (DOFAW, 1989). Invertebrates are threatened by the yellowjacket wasp and extermination of plant species that are specifically needed to complete their life cycle (OKP, 2003).

Studies of bird populations since 1977 have shown that at least five native birds (Akiapolaau, Creeper, Elepaio, Omao and Iiwi) in this area may be declining in occurrence and/or density (Gorresen *et al*, 2005). Akepa trends were variable, which may leave a downward trend undetected (Gorresen *et al*, 2005). Amakihi and Apapane were the only birds that showed increasing or stable trends in this area (Gorreson, *et al*, 2005). Native forest birds are threatened by mosquitoes (*Culex quinquefasciatus*) which transmit avian malaria and pox, and increases in the density and impacts of predator populations, particularly rats (*Rattus rattus*, *R. exulans*) (OKP, 2003). Small mammal predators also are threats to native plants, as they devour seeds and seedlings. Habitat degradation as well as the loss of genetic diversity also cause the decline of these birds. Observed birds such as the Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) and redbilled Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*) may also compete, spread invasive species, and act as disease reservoirs. The Japanese bush warbler (*Cettia diphone*) is present nearby in Waiakea but has not been recorded in Kulani (Gorreson *et al*, 2005). Non-native forest birds exhibited declines in occurrence/ and or density in Kulani since 1977 (Gorreson *et al*, 2005).

Present Level of Protection

Development is regulated by the rules of the State Conservation District as well as State and Federal Endangered Species rules.

According to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Title 13, Chapter 5, which regulates the Conservation District, the objective of the Resource Sub-zone is to "...develop, with proper management, areas to sustain use of the natural resources." Approximately 1,162 acres of the entire parcel is in the "General" Sub-zone of the Conservation District. The objective of this Sub-zone is to "designate open space where specific conservation uses may not be defined, but where urban use would be premature."

Additionally, the presence of endangered species and critical habitat are additional regulatory layers. Designation of critical habitat requires Federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on actions the Federal agency carries out, funds, or authorizes, to ensure that their actions will not destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Activities that modify or degrade the habitat for these species could constitute an incidental take of species which would require a license and/or a Habitat Conservation Plan.

In Kulani, conservation management activities have been ongoing since 1992, and it currently has one of the highest levels of management protection in Hawaii. The inclusion of this area in the Olaa Kilauea Watershed Partnership, which later became the Three Mountain Alliance resulted in a major increase in conservation activities in this area, as Kulani is in the core of the partnership. More details on management is found in the "Background and History" section of this nomination. However, TMA members are bound by a Memorandum of Understanding that is voluntary and can be terminated at any time.

In July 2009, the Department of Public Safety announced the closure of the Kulani Correctional Facility, and mentioned negotiations with the State Department of Defense to develop a Youth Challenge Academy in the facility. During this time of transition with the property, the future designation, access arrangements, and management capabilities are uncertain. NAR designation would best allow partners to follow through on their current path to protect probably the finest and highest quality forest on the island of Hawaii.

Long-term Ecological Viability

Field observations and landcover mapping have shown the high quality of the forest outside of the former pasturelands. DOFAW Management Guidelines has mapped areas immediately adjacent to the proposed Reserve as "Highest Quality Native" which are described as having minimal disturbance, with low levels (less than 10%) of non-native plants in any vegetative layer (DOFAW, 2009). The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional plan, which measured the condition of ecosystems, as well as their size and context to determine their future viability, rated the montane wet forests of that region as good (TNC, 2006). Despite the "good" condition of the montane mesic forests, the plan rated the montane mesic forests as having a "fair" viability due to its fair context and size (TNC, 2006). The complete fencing and ongoing management of the area also greatly increases the long-term viability of this forest. Additionally, the presence of the Three Mountain Alliance and the management efforts on adjacent lands will also benefit Kulani. There are additional landscape-scale fences in the vicinity of Kulani, primarily in Puu Makaala NAR, Kilauea Forest, Keauhou, and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

However, without binding commitments for continued access and management capabilities, the future of this area is uncertain.

Environmental Consequences of No Action

The environmental consequences of no action would be to lose an opportunity to designate an area that is high quality and appropriate as a NAR on all measures, during a key time of transition. Environmental consequences of no action would mean less long-term management protection and future hurdles to implement proactive conservation projects such as active efforts for increase existing populations of endangered species. If access and management agreements did not favor conservation projects in the future for this area, management of Puu Makaala NAR as well as neighboring Kamehameha Schools land (Kilauea and Keauhou) would also be affected because the fence units cross land ownership boundaries.

Urgency

This window of opportunity to facilitate access and conservation management agreements may be lost if NAR designation does not occur during this transition of management jurisdiction.

V. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Threats Requiring Management

Management needs include:

- Fence and infrastructure maintenance.
- Maintenance of ungulate-free management units.
- Weed control.
- Predator (e.g. small mammals and predatory non-native invertebrates) control.
- Native habitat restoration, natural and managed (including monitoring of rare species).
- Continue vocational training: Horticulture program/greenhouse, native restoration.

Administrative

The portion of TMK (3) 2-4-08:09 that is the KCF is 7244.27 acres; this nomination proposes that only portions become a NAR. Excluded areas include the main campus of the facility, the Boy's School, and other disturbed areas or roads. Stainback Highway accesses the parcel, and terminates in the prison facility. A network of roads and fencelines intersect the property, and follow most of the parcel's boundaries. Five fence units divide the property: the Boys school unit in the north, the north and south boundary units, and the Puu Kipu unit. A small portion of the south boundary unit also encloses the Puu Makaala NAR. A large part of the Puu Kipu unit is on Kamehameha Schools land to the west.

VI. PUBLIC OUTREACH

Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Notified

Organization	Name
FEDERAL AGENCIES	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Donna Ball, Conservation Partnerships
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Hakalau Wildlife Refuge
US Geological Survey, BRD	Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
US National Park Service	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
US National Park Service	
USDA Forest Service	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Kenneth M. Kaneshiro
US Senate	Senator Daniel Inouye
US Senate	Senator Daniel Akaka
US House of Representatives	Representative Mazie Hirono
US Geological Survey, BRD	Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
USGS Hawaii Volcano Observatory	Jim Kauahikaua
Extension Forester-CTAHR	J.B. Friday
USFS	Anne Marie De La Rosa
STATE AGENCIES	
Office of Environmental Quality Control	
Dept. of Business, Economic Development & Tourism	
Department of Defense	Major General Robert. G. F. Lee, Adjutant General
Department of Defense, Engineering Office	Lieutenant Colonel Neal Mitsuyoshi
Department of Defense	Youth Challenge Academy
Dept. of Public Safety	David Festerling, Deputy Director for Administration
Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands	
Dept. of Health	
DLNR	Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
DLNR	Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Natural Area Reserves System Commission	Betsy Gagne
DLNR	Land Division
DLNR	State Historic Preservation Division
DLNR	State Historic Preservation Division, Hawaii Island Office
DLNR State Historic Preservation	Hawaii Island Burial Council
DLNR	
DLNR	State Parks

DLNR Land Division
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
State Legislature
State Legislature
State Legislature
Office of the Governor
University of Hawaii
Hilo Public Library

University of Hawaii
University of Hawaii
University of Hawaii
University of Hawaii
University of Minnesota
University of Hawaii

Hawaii Island BLNR Representative/Hawaii Forest and Trail Rob Pacheco

Hawaii Land Agent

Hilo Office
Senator Russell Kokubun
Representative Robert Herkes
Representative Jerry Chang
Governor Linda Lingle
Environmental Center

Jon Price
Becky Ostertag
Pat Hart
Jim Juvik
Rebecca Montgomery
Pamela Scheffler

COUNTY

County of Hawaii
County of Hawaii
County of Hawaii
County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council
Hawaii County Council
County Civil Defense
County Fire Department

County Fire Department
Department of Education, Hilo District
Hawaii County Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

Office of the Mayor
Department of Water Supply
Planning Department
Department of Public Works
Councilman Guy Enriques
Councilman Dennis "Fresh" Onishi

Chief Darryl Oliveria

ORGANIZATIONS

Kamehameha Schools
Kamehameha Schools
Three Mountain Alliance
The San Diego Zoo
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii
Sierra Club, Moku Loa Chapter
Conservation Council of Hawaii

Namaka Whitehead
Kamakani Dancil
Colleen Cole
Mr. Alan Lieberman
Laura Nelson
Eldridge Naboa
Sierra Club, Moku Loa Chapter
Marjorie Ziegler

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii	The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii
Volcano Community Association	Volcano Community Association
Hawaii Audubon Society	
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation	Mr. Alan Murakami
Native Hawaiian Advisory Council	Ms. Elizabeth Martin
Kahea	
Hawaii Hunting Advisory Council	Steven Araujo
Bishop Museum	
BIISC	
Aha Kiole Council	
Hawaii Conservation Alliance	
Pig Hunters of Hawaii	Thomas Medeiros
Pig Hunters of Hawaii	Richard Hoeflinger
Hawaiian Botanical Society	
Big Island Bow Hunters	
Environment Hawaii Inc.	
Hawaii County Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce	
Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo	
Prince David Kawanakoa Hawaiian Civic Club	
Hawaii Hunting Association	
Wildlife Conservation Association of Hawaii, Hilo Chapter	
Edith Kanakaole Foundation	
Big Island Bird Hunters	
Ka Nohona Pono Inc	
American Association of University Women	Susan Hicks
PEPP	Joan Yoshioka
Silversword Foundation	Robert Robicaux
American Forest Management, Inc.	William Stormont
Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Jan Schipper
Volcano Rare Plant Facility	Patty Moriyasu
Island Transitions	Deborah Chang
Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group	Wayne Blyth, Chariman
Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group	Nani Pogline, Hiking Representative
INDIVIDUALS*	
Volcano Community Association and Sierra Club	Diane Ware
USGS	Paul Banko
NARS	Joseph Camara
NARS	Chris Junge
Legislature	Russell Kokubun

VCF	Dan Taylor
Aloha Self Care	Martha Lockwood
Volcano Community Association	Hannah Hedrick
	Tim Tunison
	Pat Conant
Kohala Watershed	Zach Judd
Wildlife Conservation Association	David Barbados - No contact information provided
	Sunny Seal-LaPlante
	Cory Harden
	Jon Giffin
	Diane Ley
	Susan Dursin
	Chris Farmer

*Individuals who wrote testimony or attended the November 2009 public hearing for the Extension of Kahaualea NAR.

Public notice was also given in newspapers pursuant to HRS § 195-4.

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Mitchell, C, C Ogura, DW Meadows, A Kane, L Strommer, S Fretz, D Leonard, and A McClung. October 2005. *Hawaii's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy*. Department of Land and Natural Resources. Honolulu, H. 722pp.

Appendices

1. Endangered Plants Found in Proposed Extension of Puu Makaala NAR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Critical Habitat
<i>Argyroxiphum kauense</i>	Ahinahina, Kau silversword	Y
<i>Asplenium fragile</i> var. <i>insulare</i>		
<i>Clermontia lindseyana</i>	Oha	Y
<i>Clermontia peleana</i>		
<i>Cyanea shipmanii</i>	Haha	Y
<i>Cyanea stictophylla</i>		Y
<i>Cyrtandra giffardii</i>		
<i>Phyllostegia racemosa</i>	Kiponapona	Y
<i>Phyllostegia velutina</i>		Y
<i>Plantago hawaiiensis</i>	Laukahi	
<i>Vicia menziesii</i>	Hawaiian vetch	

Critical Habitat for *Phyllostegia hawaiiensis* is also designated in this area.

2. Native Vertebrates Found in Proposed NAR

Endangered

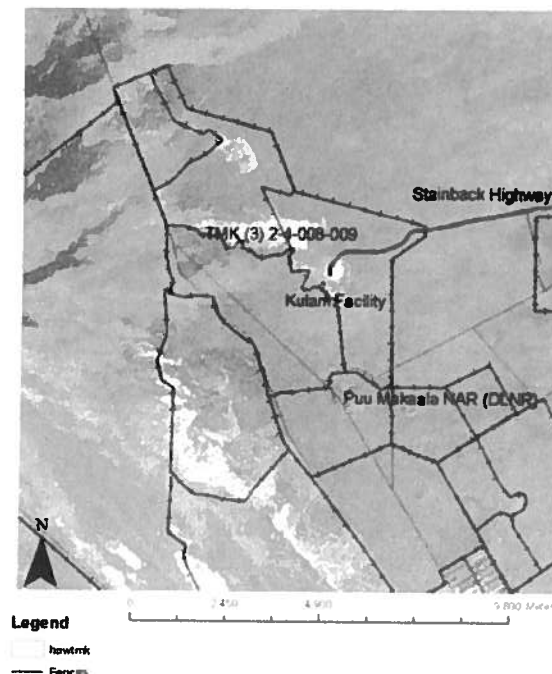
Hawaiian goose, nene,
(Nesochen sandwichensis)
 Hawaiian bat, opeapea,
(Lasiurus semotus cinereus)
 Hawaii creeper (*Oreomystis mana*)
 Hawaii akepa (*Loxops coccineus*)
 Akiapolaau (*Hemignathus munroi*)
 Hawaiian hawk or Io (*Buteo solitarius*)
 Hawaiian Petrel
(Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis)

Non-Endangered

Apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*)
 Amakihi (*Hemignathus virens*)
 Iiwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*)
 Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*)
 Omao or Hawaiian thrush
(Phaeornis obscurus)
 Hawaiian owl or pueo
(Asio flammeus sandwichensis)
 Pacific golden-plover or kolea
(Pluvialis fulva)
 Band-rumped Storm Petrel (Candidate)
(Oceanodroma castro)

4. Map of Existing Fences in Kulani Correctional Facility and Vicinity

Existing Fences at Kulani



3. Map of Proposed NAR – See Attachment 1 above.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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July 20, 2010

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: MASTER'S REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Notice of Public Hearing published statewide pursuant to HRS §195-4, and as authorized by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, I have conducted a public hearing on the proposed designation of a portion of TMK (3) 2-4-08:09 into the Natural Area Reserves System as part of Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve. This hearing took place on July 12, 2010 at The Cooper Center, 19-4030 Wright Road, Volcano, HI 96785.

The hearing was called to order at 6:30pm, and the proposal was summarized, followed by a hearing and recording of public testimony according to the list of people who have signed up to present testimony. Attached is an exhibit of the oral testimony received at the hearing, as well as written testimony received.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Agorastos", is written over a horizontal line.

Nick Agorastos
Natural Area Reserves System Specialist

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY – July 12, 2010

Dan Taylor - Thank you, I'm surprised to see so many people here. It used to be when I would testify before a group of people in this room, I was one of the younger people, that was 30 years ago when we came here. Looking at the audience now I'm one of the older people, so its kind of a new feeling for me to be speaking to a younger audience. What I would like to say is that I really appreciate Emma Yuen's presentation she gave, very comprehensive and quite a brilliant presentation. However, I think what was missing in my mind Emma, was a perspective on the context of this Natural Area Reserve extension.

I want to speak first of all for my response in favor of this extension. But I'd also like to remind people, especially people who live in Volcano that you're living in one of the most beautiful environments on earth. If you can remember the map that was shown by Emma in her presentation that showed a conglomeration of land managers working together to promote good land management, good stewardship. You will notice it included about a million acres, about 45% of this island, a huge area. The components of this area, is the Department of Corrections area here which is now managed by the Department of Corrections but will be managed by the Natural Area Reserves System. Which is a higher level of management, a great commitment toward long term conservation.

Now I'd like to speak to you folks which have raised such good issues about this and by doing that it makes this area more Hawaiian than it was. By removing non-native species and promoting the growth of native species. And so to that extent it's actually a huge improvement of the kind of management that takes place. I would submit to you that there isn't a conservation worker in this room who doesn't promote the idea of promoting natural area restoration. That's perfect conservation working in this state, to diminish the importance of non-native species and increase the importance of native ones. That's the preference here, and by this extension we're actually adding that dimension of excellence to this area. I strongly, strongly endorse it and I hope that you folks will see that as well.

Now, I wanted tease Sheila a little bit. I worked in the National Parks in 1979 for about 17 years. By the time I arrived, feral goats had mostly been removed from the park and we were beginning to think about removing feral pigs. Now there's a lot of opposition to that because they are sport animal here and a lot of people like to hunt pigs. This is what we committed to doing. Now, Sheila might remember the first conference. I told her this is what we're going to do, and she just laughed and said people can't do that. For two reasons, first you can't do it physically and secondly there's too much opposition to it. Well, the National Park did it and the park was essentially free of pigs now. The methods developed by the park are being extended to this area now. And I can tell you from personal experience the improvement in the natural environment in the park is remarkable. You might remember the pictures Emma showed earlier on, the before and after, they were just seven years apart, where there's remarkable recovery of native species in a single area. Well that kind of differences has appeared over most of the National Park. Thank you.

Diane Ware - Good evening. I'm going to speak on behalf of the Moku Loa group of the Sierra Club and we represent 800 members on this island, besides being an environmental advocacy group we also have outings and recreational activities open to anyone on the island. Some of that includes service projects, some of those with NARS we have participated in some of these NARS areas, which if you looked at the map its really a very small number of acres that are highly protected and we feel that NARS does provide the best protection for the ecosystem. We are in favor of the holistic system where the ecosystem is focused on, not individual species where the health of the ecosystem, everything benefits, makai and mauka. By protecting this area, you also protect the near shore waters, gathering rights, and preservation of the forest for future generations and we think this will also provide some connectivity. I was leading a small Sierra Club trip recently to Puu oo trail for bird watching, sometimes there's lots of liwi in there and when we went in there, there were no liwi because there were no Lehua blossoms for the birds to feed on. They have to move to other areas. They only feed on native species and its all interconnected. So, if you lose that interconnectedness, and fragment the forest, it will lead to decline of species, plant and animals. And we also support the continuation of the horticulture program that was going on with Kulani Correctional for the Youth Challenge. We think this is a great opportunity for young people to learn and participate in propagating and restoring native species.

Rick Warshauer - My name is Rick Warshauer. I'm quite familiar with this area. I've spent quite a few trips up in here doing conservation biology work for over a decade. It's a superb area. The addition of this area to the NAR brings in new habitats and bring it into the montane mesic zone. It brings a whole bunch of other plants and animals into protection, some of which aren't protected elsewhere. Two of those are *Plantago pachyphylla*, which has been extirpated every where else, except for here and it's thriving. And now there is an undescribed species of *Dubautia*, which is only known from here. So, in addition to the large number of rare native plants, we've got these very special things. Another thing we have is a large number of nene using this area and they use the water catchment area and this pasture that as much as I favor this proposal I would like to see it amended to add this to the NAR portion. Not let it go into other uses. It's very important. We've watched over the years as fences were incrementally added, the recovery of the native vegetating, including this pasture area. And it's utilized by other organisms and the nene as well. Another area I'd like to see excluded is this road and boys school. I think the activities one might imagine the Department of Defense doing, maneuvers, kicking in doors on the building and stuff, will be very disruptive to the environment protected by the NAR which surrounds it. There are plenty of doors to kick in down here. So I feel very strongly that these areas should be transferred to the NAR as well and I would like to see that included. The other areas, I could go on and on about, its very extraordinary. And I really commend the work that was done through Kulani and the Three Mountain Alliance to put in these fences and do restoration work. The NAR is lucky to have a place that is already in top shape and is fenced. So I recommend go get there.

I wanted to also share a story – when I was flying in a small airplane over Kulani, I saw military helicopters, jumping out and assaulting the boy's school. It was a mess, and the noise hurt the birds. Be careful if you let their foot in the door.

Renate Gassman - Aloha, my name is Renate Gassman and I'm making these comments on behalf of myself. From 1985 to 1990, I was a veterinary consultant for the endangered species facility in Pohakuloa on this island and later in Olinda on Maui. And although it was established captive breeding procedures for native forest birds, for native Hawaiian forest birds, especially the Hawaiian crow or Alala, and later to release those birds into Hawaiian forest areas. Despite our labor and combined efforts of the Peregrine fund and today's San Diego Zoo, whose currently in charge of managing the captive endangered breeding facilities. Ten Hawaiian bird species got extinct in the last 20 years, ten species in the last 20 years, so in my time I mean I was long already here. I'm from Germany if you might have already realized this, I can't get rid of my accent yet. So, I was long already here on these islands and a Malihini, so I've been here for 25 years and it only took 20 years where ten species got extinct. Several of the remaining Hawaiian birds are on the brink of extinction or are declining. Heroic efforts to breed those dwindling bird species and propagation facilities are only the first step to give those species a window of survival or a temporary survival chance. But all of those efforts will be in vain if you cannot release those birds in a let's say pristine or relatively good Hawaiian forest. To sum it up, we have to do everything to protect the native Hawaiian forest areas or on Maui, for instance, a remnants of native Hawaiian forest areas and therefore I urge you to really extend Puu Makalaa area and keep our native Hawaiian birds alive. Thank you so much.

Calvin Kalewaihea - Thank you for giving me the second to come up and share my manao. It's a pleasure. I hate to see a place like this go to the military. Ohana Hoopakele has something the world needs. It has a place to have people connected through Hooponopono. If America can do right, maybe the world can see America as big brother, not big bully. We are the biggest terrorists. Any country in power can get spiritual foundation – mana. Has to come from the heart.

Cory Harding- Aloha, thank you for holding this meeting. It would be a mistake to allow the decision of this magnitude to be made by one individual or a small group of elected officials. That was Governor Lingle talking about civil unions, so why did the public and even some staff, not know about plans to close Kulani Correctional Facility and open a Youth Challenge Academy until it hit the news? I support the NARS proposal and this meeting is a good start to what the Kulani area really needs, community based planning instead of top down closed door planning. Planning should also include consideration of a Puu Honua alternative prison and planning should include answers to these questions. 1) Why was Kulani

Correctional Facility closed? Hawaii needs more prison beds, not fewer and it was one of the most successful minimum-security prisons in Hawaii with the leading sex offender treatment program and Kulani inmates provided millions of dollars of labor to the county and they helped manage the forests here. 2) Why was the closing so chaotic? Records were illegally burned in an open pit and one staff person, thinking it might not be right to burn them, even took some home. 3) Why are there rumors that sex-offenders from Kulani were released though their treatment wasn't complete? 4) Why does the state Department of Defense want the 25-year commitment for Kulani lands? This is from Environment-Hawaii. 5) What plans does the military have for 7200 acres at Kulani where they are planning clean up of unexploded ordinance? 6) Were requirements for public input met before a memorandum of agreement was signed to allow a Youth Challenge Academy? We got some answers for 7 on what happened at the June Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting. I'm wondering if this kind of piecemeal permits happening where you can get facts on the ground and then there will be a big change all of the sudden. 8) Will the military plans follow plans that are already made for Kulani? There are various memorandums of understanding and management plans for the area. 9) Why isn't the military required to clean up its old sites on Hawaii before it takes any more land? We've got scores of sites left for decades in hazardous conditions with unexploded ordinance.

Regarding the NARS, if we don't have the NARS then years of care and protection could be undone for not only Kulani but for nearby lands. People have talked about what a wonderful pristine forest is, how many native birds there are, and the fact that it is high up so you don't get the mosquitoes carrying malaria that kill off the birds. I know that the Mauna Kea Recreational Users group and others are concerned about access for public use and hunters are concerned maybe about fencing. I support public use, but only if there's adequate protection for critical habitat and endangered species, including protection from noise, both for wildlife and people. Thank you.

Jim Albertini- Aloha everyone. I wear a few hats, I'm a taro farmer at Malu Aina, I was also a coordinator at the Big Island Rainforest Action Group. I've worked for years at the Pele Defense Fund, in defense of the NARS area, Wao Kele O Puna from industrial development, it involved hundreds of arrests, thousands of people demonstrated, defending her from being turned into industrial development. Our group, and Pele Defense Fund, I've noticed were not on the list of people given notice about this meeting. I think it's an insult. But I want to support four things here, first of all, there needs to be comprehensive planning, involving the whole community on these issues. It can't be done piecemeal, to say that the donut hole doesn't relate to the donut here is a bit ridiculous in my judging. Number two, we support Ohana Hoopakele in establishing a modern day Puu Honua here with Kulani Prison. Puu Honua is a place of refuge, a place of healing, wellness, and it's a good thing to relate the people with the land. We need to heal together; we're one community, people and the land. Number three, there's a basic conflict here involving the military in the middle of the NARS area. Call it what you will, it's the Department of Defense, it's the military, and the military has 57 present or former sites on this island involving hundreds of thousands of acres littered with unexploded ordinance with toxins including radiation contamination. The last thing we need is more military in the middle of a Natural Area Reserve. So, I think its time for the military to clean up, and the funds that are going to the war and all of the destruction, going to help heal and restore the people and the land. Mahalo.

Sam Kaleleiki- Aloha Kakou. Thank you for being here. I'm going to let you know what Puu Makaala means. Alert, alert, we need to be alert. So, is a shadow being cast over us? We need to be alert. Military, destruct, as destruction. I speak from experience, 30 years of experience. I've been in the United States Marine Corps. for 30 years. I'm a retired sergeant major, there's no other dog higher than that. So, when I speak, I speak logics. All I can say is that I'm speaking to you, telling you people. Now, when Jim mentioned the donut, I support NARS, it's a good thing. Anyone that preserves, that's a good thing, for generations to come later. And we should leave them something footprint, or whatever it is, to continue preserve. Now, Ohana Hoopakele. I'm the president of Ohana Hoopakele. Want the state back, they say its to save money. They closed Kulani down to save money. You know Kulani saved the state of Hawaii two million dollars, but you didn't hear about that. They closed Kulani down because it was costing money. Five months prior to that they opened a court house that cost 92 million dollars. They went out of budget, they though it would be 80 million, it ended up to be 92 million. So, we can go on and on and on

and talk. But if we're going to roll over like dogs and die, fr*** yourself. We got to continue, follow up, you gotta follow up. So, this area here, you bring in your people that belong there, families who have fathers, uncles, brothers, sisters, mothers, that's locked up in North America. They need to come home. We need to put them in a place that we can take care of them and that we can take care of the NARS. It don't take no genius or rocket scientist to figure that out. Thank you.

Ronald Fujiyoshi- Aloha everyone. My Name is Ronald Fujiyoshi. I'm the treasurer of Ohana Hoopakele, so I'm speaking for Ohana Hoopakele. But I'm also a member of the United Church of Christ of USA. I just finished the elected position as the president of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, which is a non-geographical association of Hawaiian churches and I'm also the pastor of Olaa First Hawaiian church from 1993 to 1999 and that's one of the few places that keeps the name Olaa. And we're talking about... my research show, well this is a public hearing, and I know you know people said that you guys only talk about the proposal but to me a public hearing is also a hearing that the public can come and learn about the repercussions about what's going on. And so what is not being said may be just as important as what is being said and I think some of that has come up already. I think that my research show that this land was crown lands, crown lands of Waiakea in the Hilo district, and the crown lands of Olaa, which was the sacred forest in the Puna district. And so that according to public law 103-150 that President Kennedy signed that you people know, Clinton signed, "OK sorry." It says that this was an illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, right? But it talks about this new lands resolution that turned over the land over to United States so I am convinced that Dr. Keanu Sys research shows that the new lands joint resolution could never had turned over the land to the United States because it could only have been done by treaty which is 2/3 vote of the Senate and they couldn't do it and so they just did a simple majority of both Houses. So, if that is true then the three Governors' proclamations that originally took the crown lands and made it into Forest Reserve is illegal and the three Executive Orders by Governors later on that turned it into Kulani and even NARS was also illegal.

So we as Ohana Hoopakele are supporting the NARS proposal because its keeping with the crown lands and its protecting, right? But we think that the NARS staff and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife has an obligation to oppose the DOD because the military is coming in and is going to train the at-risk youth. So they might try to keep it quiet because you're working for the same State but you have an obligation to expose it and say what really is true because of the original understanding of crown land. So, I can write the rest of it of the Governors Proclamations and the Executive Orders on to that, but seeing as Uncle Sam says, we have almost 2,000 of our men up in Arizona and Arizona just passed a law, you know, I think it was in the news, that allows for racial profiling so that if any of us go out and visit, most of us in the room, they can pull us aside and according to that. So we feel that you need to keep the beds to bring them back. Thank you.

G.W. Naliko Markel- Aloha Kakou. My name is Gerral Naliko Markel, I come as an appointed minister of the reinstated Hawaiian government, kingdom of Hawaii, Hawaiian kingdom. And I normally do not speak publicly before theses types of activity because most of the people don't recognize the legitimacy of this government. There's a good reason for it. The federal government has admitted to their fraud. The state of Hawaii puppet government has admitted to the native Hawaiians right to self-governing in 1993. And all of the native Hawaiians, you want to talk about endangered species, talk about all of the plants you considered endangered and the birds, nobody seems to care about the native Hawaiians. Our numbers are dwindling every day. We are treated like we are not human beings. According to the law of nations back in 1750, everyone has a right to a nation. Everyone has a right to self-governing in their country. According to their culture, according to their beliefs. Size and power are meaningless, a small country has the same right to exist as a large one. As a dwarf has the same right to live as a giant. Law is not just for the rich and powerful to be administered to the weak and powerless. Law is for everyone. And again, the reason why I don't normally testify to these hearings is that the State of Hawaii is a fraud, it has no foundation or basis in law. It is the great grandchild of a government that was founded in greed, abhorrence. It governs my great grandparents and the naturalized citizens of other races that were hanai to that country. You want to talk about justice? When the Germans walked into France, would a French man consider himself German? Just because you suspend the sovereignty or freedom of a nation doesn't take away their identity but in the case of the United States of America, apparently genocide is ok. I want to

remind you that this hearing should actually be taking place within the parameters of the kingdom of Hawaii government. Each one of you here, employees, there's no reason why you are not employees of kingdom government. We've been promised for 117 years justice to get a government of our own choosing back to administer our laws on our land in our way, and we continue to be raped.

And so, this is a wonderful plan, to preserve the animals and the birds and the flowers and the plants. But it's also a beautiful plan to save Hawaii. Large numbers in our prison system are Hawaiian. To teach them to love and respect themselves and educate themselves and self sustain themselves in a facility is very important. It can be a role model like Calvin said for the rest of the world. We're not asking for anything, but this government that is running things today in the state of Hawaii is so stupid that they close down a revenue producing facility. And so it only gives up Hawaiians sovereignty even more straight to realize if that's the kind of level of management you get at this state level, us Hawaiians can't do much worse. We adopt you all, we have always loved foreigners, we always have everybody to adopt to our country naturally. We were one of the first in the world to naturalize come with us because our king said we need the brain power we need everybody. We were never racist, but today we find ourselves mixed up in racism, we are accused of being racist. And so I tell you today everyone, I speak on behalf of the voters of the reinstated law for Hawaiian government we have a political party, we have a voter base, and this works for us. This also works for us. I would say that the biggest abomination would be allow the military that has held us in oppression for 117 years back. That is another insult to be rammed down the Hawaiians throat. Thank you for that, I appreciate the time.

Kelii Ioane- Aloha. I like to say the NARS is alright, its good. How I think you save all the birds, is you stop the lights. You see these kind of lights, if you stop the lights, the birds can live. But as long as you leave, where ever the lights go, aina die. If dark, then everything can live, but as long as get these lights so all us skin and dirt with these lights. That's my moololo. We come from the dark behind the stars. And for us, dark is life, so that's why we had a hard time with Jesus Christ, because he's a light guy. We a dark people, so we got schizophrenic that way. But I like to go right with cousin here because in our ways the birds is family to us. He is my cousin. The tree is my blood relative, ohia is my family name. Pele is my great-great-great-great-great grandmother. So Olaa is my great-great-great-great auntie. So in the sense of the sovereignty, I can claim this land through genealogy. I don't believe people have to claim Iraq, Bethlehem, Iraq, so if you claim Adam and Eve you're genealogy go to the middle east. Me, this is my genealogy right here, and I agree with saving my family, the birds. I agree with that. I like that. And in here when they're talking about Ohana Hoopakele is the other family to the tree and the bird, is the Hawaiian person. So they all relative in the sense of making the betters, making everything right.

And as far as the Army, my family all went war, we all went war and my son isn't going because I came to the realization its not my fault to hanai the white man's burden or greed. That's not my job for go save his a**, f*** you. Anyhow this thing over here, I agree, put the Hawaiian over there. And for the DOD you like send the young boys for go training camp that's only half right because the other half is the parents is that's f***ing us. Send the parents to the war. You know if you like save the kids, then we have to kill the parents. Other thing is that you put the DOD school for the young kids over here, take them Pohakuloa. Puo puo. You're bulls***ing them again. You send them Pohakuloa and you let them see what happens when the shrapnel rip the persons head off, all in the name of greed. Or the hypocrisy of the democracy, they all relatives. Keep the Department of Defense out. You know. That's all.

Patrick Pacheco- Aloha everybody. I come from a family and for others too we were brought up on this island. We had what was given to us. The land. Many of our fathers, our forefathers have raised our families in the forests by hunting, sport. Brought up with food. Today we find organizations that come into the island and take away from us. Take what we have and what they can take. I support birds. I love the birds. I love the trees. But I also love the sport of hunting. I was born hunting, I live to hunt and hunt to live. I go in the forests, and I can tell when the birds if its going to be a good day and where's there's not going to be a good day. NARS have said many times that they protect the plants and the birds but NARS to you, I tell you straight that the animals live together, they can live together better than people can. Because when you come to Hawaii and take away what we had, the animals live together. Go up into the forests like you have been and all of you and go and listen to all of the birds chirp. Every bird has a different dialect, and yet every bird understands each bird.

Why can't the people of Hawaii, you, the visitors that come, and call Hawaii your home, that's our home together, we live together, don't come and change our lifestyle to better your self. But what about the people, the people that use the island. Today the [costs] is so high in the state and in the nation. What's going to happen to the people that have got to eat? They use the forest for pigs, they use the sheep, the goat, its all being eradicated. The National Parks sir, you talk about National Park, I remember 50 years ago, I been hunting, 1950 I been in the mountain. They used to have a lot of goats in the National Park, what they did with the goats? Drive them off the cliff into the ocean. No more goats. And all of the sudden National Parks is getting fires. Oh big fires. The animals people, common sense. They are your yard-takers. Like you mow your lawn, the pigs keep the forest down. We don't have forest here, we have jungle. The only forest we have is up by here. Hapuu forest, that they want, that they find the plants every time in the hapuu forests. But they never go below, how come? The plants only grows here. Kinda fishy right? But only up here the good mountain, the forest they find the best. But below the tree planting an all that, no more plants. Why? Too rough. They don't want to go in there. Oh we don't need these place, these place no good. No let's take up there. This here, I will agree with this.

DOD has something up their sleeve, and its not only for the children, they using that as a shield people. Because they're going to use it as a military base and make our island a target of invaders. So I say to you now, yes I support the birds, I support the plants, but don't blame the pigs, you taking about mosquitoes that they [spread] and all that. I'm pretty sure in your backyard if you have ti leaves please take it down, mosquitoes hatch in there. So don't blame the pigs. What about the cans, every place in this island we have mosquitoes. Don't be blaming the pigs, that's an excuse that's a cop out. We all know that. Up in Kulani no more mosquitoes, too cold. Down below its warm, yes we have. So don't blame the pigs that they make wallows and all that. Thank you very much.

Steven Araujo- Good evening, my name is Steven Araujo. I'm going to make it short and sweet. First of all id like to say this meeting also needs to be held in Hilo and in more than one location. I know that the law says the nearest community, but the community that is affected begins at the access of Kulani, Stainback Highway and [Wright] road. And this general area also affects the people of Hilo, the people of Papaikou, not only the Volcano community. So I'm requesting that the meetings be held in Hilo before the time is up. Ok number two, under number six it says public support. I do not support this NARS proposal, so you can change that, before you put my name down as support or unsupport of a project, maybe you should talk to me.

Also, the reason I don't agree with this proposal is because I do not agree with Olaa Kilauea [Working Group]. I am an advocate of the hunter, and of land use. I have been working with, well trying to work with Olaa Kilauea Working Group, natural area working group, also said before the management plan of NARS actually stinks. You guys go in, you put in bulldozers, you cut fence lines, now you saying you're protecting a forest. You guys cut fence lines and pull dozers. You go and chop fence lines, you go in and put bulldozer tracks wide enough to put vehicles through there. And you said the pig graded it up, well so are you. You come into a forest that has not seen herbicides; you spray herbicides by the hundreds of gallons. You kill animals and leave them there to rot, you relocate some just to keep the hunters happy, the rest you kill and leave them there to rot, that's just waste. If you want to go into real research also call Olson James, four foot birds grazed the forest like sheep. Giant quails scour the forest floor like pigs. It was mentioned earlier that you want to show our future generations what Hawaii looked like pre-contact. Pre contact, remember there was millions of extinct giant birds that had to eat. They ate the forest, just like the owl. So man cannot say that I know this happened that day because that wasn't there. So take all the research, not only selective research to say that this is how it was. Ok thank you.

Steven Hess- I'd just like to say I enthusiastically support the NAR extension and it is a fantastic forest habitat, one of the last remaining best habitat for native birds, Iiwi, Akiapolaau, Akepa, Creeper, Nene, they're all up there. I can see Kulani from my house and I know those birds come down if there were enough of them they would come down and I would see them out there and I'd be really excited about that. And I would be even more enthusiastic about supporting the proposal if the lands in the middle there were not part of it, if it were included. Thank you.

Sterling Robbins- Aloha. My name is Sterling Robbins and I support the NARS. You know, Hawaii is one of the examples of how fast things go extinct, so anything that can save should be. I've made enough comments on that. Just a general context, the whole society is being militarized. The economy is being militarized. The government is being militarized. Not surprising. The DOD behind the scenes some where, huh. Does all this without any input, in an area that should have been public meeting, should have talked about all the options for how to integrate this. There have been some suggested tonight. Didn't happen huh? Not surprising. DOD does everything behind the scene, runs the show. What's the surprise? NARS gotta be. Thank you.

JB Friday- Aloha. I'm JB Friday, I live in Hilo. I'm testifying as an individual. I'm testifying in support of expansion of the NAR for the area, for the main reason that it connects areas particularly Kilauea tract enclosure, beautiful pristine forests with the Makaala Natural Area Reserve. It's really important to connect these areas in order to protect them. Thank you.

Zach Judd- Zach Judd, grew up in Volcano, born and raised, fully support the NARS extension. Its beautiful forest, you guys have been up there in the right road and this just further extends it. I don't like the idea of DOD being in there, I think it could be used as an education center for the youth for conservation instead of a Youth Challenge place for DOD. And also the access that DOD is going to get though there, DOD is notorious for bringing weeds to pristine areas and that puts it smack dab in the middle. But in all, I'm in full support.

Richard Camp- Aloha. Thank you for answering my question, the reason I asked it is I actually did the analysis of the bird population trends native and aliens in this area Kulani, Keahou, Puu Makaala and down towards Hilo. This is one of the few areas where population of birds is increasing, its one of the best areas to preserve, thank you.

Wayne Blyth- Good evening, I'm Wayne Blyth, Chairman of the Mauna Kea Recreational Users group. We're a coalition of recreational enthusiasts of all sorts, hiking, fishing, hunting, and so forth. I'm one of the few from the population that has actually been here and lucky enough over the years to have been up in this area up here. It is a gorgeous area and certainly an area that's worth preserving. However, since it's a little questionable as the relationship between DOD and the NARS proposal and how these negotiations have taken place, I have to make my comments apply to both. What we're concerned about primarily is access for the public because it is public lands that yes should be conserved and in some cases preserved but conservation means responsible use and Kulani also connects major forest areas down here in Waiakea and portions of the Olaa Forest Reserve that are currently not in the NARS and this areas up here. That access way has been removed from the public effective for the last [several] years. We think now it's a good time to put it back into the public domain. So we're asking for the Stainback highway and the main road coming up through here to the 1942 flow gate and also the roadway the NARS people put in along this fenceline here to be allow for general public use and that would give access to this Forest Reserve up here to help control the pig populations would probably help the NARS people.

The other thing we're concerned about is NARS taking on such a large expansive area while it neglects areas down below here approaching treeline road area or the eastern portion below the Aku unit we feel is not appropriate NARS land and now that your looking to expand the NARS by 6,600 acres, maybe it's a good time to look at giving the public back the 5,500 that's pretty much a lost cause that we see for preserving. It's totally overrun, doesn't belong in NARS, and therefore I don't see the NARS people putting resources and expecting a gain from that. Given those two caveats, we will support the NARS. We want to see the public access to and through the area to be under the control of neither actually DOD or NARS, it would be preferred to se it under standard DOWAF personnel, the local forestry office. And an exchange for some of the inferior land that's in the NARS right now. Thank you very much.

Edwin Ung- Third generation born from immigrants, my children are fourth generation born from immigrants. I am not Hawaiian by blood but Hawaiian by heart. I am speaking as an individual but I am from this group here Rock Island Riders and we represent approximately 700-800 people, a very diverse

group from this island and I don't claim to be an expert on anything. A lot of experts in this room I see. I don't pretend to be one however, I and my cohorts are staunch conservationists and in my 65 years I have trespassed, I have been to Puu Makaala, I have walked to Puu Makaala. I walked to Lake Waiau when there was no road. Kona village on the other side, I walked to Kona village. When I was 11 years old I walked to the shoreline at Manuka. There was no Queen K highway.

I cherish this island. I chose this island to raise my kids. I support anything that is conservation minded. Animals, plants, we're talking about protecting the koa forests, you ever been to the state capital? You ever been to Mayor Kenoi's office? You ever been to the DLNR office in downtown Hilo? All koa furniture. Talk about hypocritical. We talk about extinct birds, 70% of extinct birds in the US come from the state of Hawaii. Why? Loss of habitat. What caused the loss of habitat? Western Culture. I could use a different version of that description. Loss of habitat. We talk about Olaa, Puna sugar which used to be Olaa plantation. They bulldoze everything to the foothills right here. Sugarcane, loss of habitat. Ok. Invasive species, everything that is invasive was brought in by man. Everything from gorse to fire to mosquitoes to mongoose to Kahili ginger which surrounds us right here. Everything was brought in by man. Do we hold all these ills against our current generation, those of us still alive today? Its like saying we're responsible for all the ills. We have been educated to the point where we know what went wrong in previous administrations and generations before us. The state as an entity should not treat us as ignorant people. Its like, do we hold the white race today responsible for slavery? No, there 'aint nobody alive today who was responsible for slavery. Do we hold the current administration today for the overthrow of Liliuokalani? Perhaps. But there 'aint nobody alive today who was involved in that. So the people who are responsible for the environmental damage are gone. We gotta make the best of what's left with us. And that's intelligent management. We learn by our previous mistakes but don't treat me as an American Indian and put me on a reservation and say I cannot go in there. I've been in there. I want to retain my access to this area.

Yeah I support all of the conservation efforts in there. When I'm in the forest I chop that thorny mulberry, we call it cats claw, I chop all those things when I'm out there. I try to leave a minimal footprint. But don't make me a victim of someone else's mistake. If some of you are old enough to remember Waikiki, and I do, wow extraordinary. If some of you are old enough to remember Hilo bayfront, extraordinary Hilo. You're all familiar with ice ponds, the whole bay of Hilo used to be just like it. The black sand beach, Hilo bay with a Crescent bay was a quarter mile extended past the existing black sand today. What did they do? Western culture came in, they pumped the black sand from Hilo bay and filled in all of the pristine springs that is what is now known as Kaikoo. And the whole bay front is ceded. We lost a quarter mile of beach in Hilo bay. I support conservationism but don't deny me access.

Pat Conant- I gotta read from my script so I get it right. Short, double spaced, it wont take too long. So, thank you for allowing me to present testimony tonight. We have a great opportunity, that outstanding parcel of NARS that has been well managed with conservation values for the last 15 years. By providing many Kulani inmates with vocational training and fencing, invasive species control and plant propagation and forest resource management, the former Kulani Correctional facility is probably the best example of several different intact native plant communities, including heritage old growth forest, old growth koa forest, best in all of Puna, of Hawaii. Under direction of the Three Mountain Alliance and NARS staff, restoration and resource protection efforts have reaped great rewards. The entire parcel is now fenced, and the former grazing land is being restored by outplanting, where it is naturally regenerating native Hawaiian plants. Most outplanting of threatened and endangered plants has been done by prisoners and other agencies such as USGS, NPS, FWS, and lastly DOWAW which has really helped make it all possible. Kamehameha Schools has contributed much time, funding support of forest restoration in this great Olaa forest area. I pointed out before that this area is going to be managed as a big parcel, so this is a good thing. At this time the Kulani lands are something that former prisoners and residents to be proud of.

The bulk of the restoration work is already done, the State Department of Defense had now taken interest in the property and may open a Youth Challenge Academy there, but has voiced support of this proposal. It should be possible for DOD to limit their activities to the developed area so that both conservation and a youth center could be compatible. From what I heard tonight, I kind of have some doubts but stay positive here. National guard, mostly local guys, but I encourage all of you to keep an eye

on them and I'm sure you will from what I've heard tonight. There could even be opportunities for resource conservation and plant propagation job training with youths, whether the youth is from the camp or make it a Puu Honua. Either way, I'm easy. The infrastructure is already there and that could be put back to use without major expense but lets limit it to this footprint in this area down here, I'm not Rick Warshauer but this part is restoring itself already. I'd like to see that protected. So please support the addition of this hard one, restored native Hawaiian forest in the NARS system. I believe we owe it to the former Kulani inmates and to all Hawaii residents in the future. The United Nations has named 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. What better way to observe that in Hawaii than to add to NARS, the best parcel of native forests in Hawaii.

Danny Li- Aloha, I'm Danny Li. I'm speaking as an individual. Its' pretty obvious through the testimony from a lot of people, even through common sense that this is a contiguous area. When you take out this thing and put it in the Department of Defense it just doesn't make sense. So first thing is I definitely think we need to request that DLNR, they do all this backdoor stuff, these two proposals can't be the saying they're a separate issue, the two have to be discussed together. It has to be public hearing so the whole thing can be discussed together, not a separate issue. Uncle Sam had a good idea; the US government is learning to be very very smart. It called dual use technology, they combine the military and sneak it in under things that are civilian like telescopes and they accuse other countries of doing it but the US is a pioneer to do it. You read that most people still don't know about the Superferry. The Superferry chronicles, you should read that. Most of you don't know its an idea to develop military vessels. Ok, getting back to this. So DOD, most people do not trust them, and I agree that's all. And I really think that the two cannot be separated. I obviously should write testimony, but that's the way to do it, backdoor deal. The Lingle administration especially, so I request that it has to be an integrated hearing all over, start from the beginning. Mahalo.

Joseph Camara- Aloha, my name is Joseph Camara, it's getting late so I'm going to make this fast. I'm speaking as a Hawaiian and also a NARS technician. There's ten people in this room that know more about this place than I do. Our jobs is to maintain the fenceline along with we share the responsibility with Three Mountain Alliance and the work that was done before prior to all the work that was done before. There was a lot of times that went into this process. I realize there are a lot of things before, going back to annexation to Department of Defense getting this land. I don't think anyone in this room was in control of giving the Department of Defense the land in the middle. I feel the lands that are supposed to become a NAR should become a NAR. The Natural Area Reserve pays my paycheck but also regardless I feel the same way we need to protect theses lands. I'm not sure if everybody appreciates the work that is going into this place and to make some place pig free, I just think to use it for any other use would be inefficient and wouldn't be too smart. Maybe if some things could be shared, but not anything that would harm the integrity of the pig free area and the pristineness of this place I think that the history of the people of Hawaii is written in the land and I hope this place in the future would show that we took care of it. I hope that we will be able to show people how it is instead of telling people how it was. I'm sorry I know other people disagree but that's the way I feel. Thank you for your time.

Eldridge Naboa- My name is Eldridge Naboa, I'm a resident of Naalehu and I represent myself. I deeply support the inclusion of the Kulani correctional facility 6,600 acres to the NARS. As a local boy growing up here in Hawaii I never really explored the mauka lands up until I was in high school. That where I learned, became aware of natural resources. Learning about the Koa forests, the Ohia forests and the native Hawaiian birds that thrived and these ecosystems. So I became aware of the resources, primarily the native Hawaiian honeycreepers. So it was back then that I started to gain a real interest and a greater appreciation of these precious beings, if you will. So this important watershed of Puu Makaala, made up of Koa and Ohia dominated canopy with a lush understory contains, as Emma stated in her presentation, several endangered plants including the Mauna Loa Silversword and the Kau Silversword, and homes to many of the native Hawaiian Honeycreepers, both common and endangered. My view is that almost a dozen of these Honeycreepers have already gone extinct, Hawaii is the endangered species capital of the world, its important that we continue to perpetuate these Hawaiian plants and animals because if they are extinct then the Hawaiian people pretty much are downhill as well because they go hand in hand. In my

lifetime I have seen one native bird go extinct, that was the Poouli on Maui and I don't want to see this happen again. And so to me this Puu Makaala extension area is truly one of the core biodiversity areas left in the state of Hawaii and should be protected for our jewels, which is our native Hawaiian plants and native Hawaiian honeycreepers.

Sheila Conant- I'm speaking as an individual. I'm Sheila Conant, I was born and raised in Manoa on Oahu, and I first lived in Volcano in the early 1970s and am trying to live her again now. I started studying Hawaiian birds in 1964 and advocating their conservation. My [friend] has seen one Hawaiian honeycreeper go extinct. I've seen seven Hawaiian forest birds alive in the forest that are now extinct. And this makes me very sad. This admission to the Natural Area Reserve is the way that we can help reverse that decline. I was around when the Puu Makaala set aside and established the Natural Area Reserve System was established and I have served on the commission off and on since the 1970s. This could turn in to the jewel in the Natural Area Reserves System and with all do respect with the concern with Kulani area here in orange, while we have the chance to do this, I think we should. One of the birds I saw go extinct, I saw right over here about 2 miles away. Maybe they wouldn't be extinct if he had done this a long time ago. So I strongly support this and I urge you all to do the same.

John Peard- Hi there, I'm John Peard, I live and work in Hilo and I'm representing myself. I wanted to say my strong support for the NARS extension. I've spent a little time in the Puu Makaala and I enjoyed that and look forward to having access in a small group setting and accessing some of the forest marvels that I've heard about from friends in the north end here in the Koa/Ohia forests up there. I think it makes a whole lot of sense from the standpoint that the area has been managed by a cooperation of agencies for 15 years it has been fully fenced it makes connections to the other reserves and preserved areas around it just makes a lot of sense to preserve this area and the great diversity that is there. Finally I just say I would encourage the NARS get involved in this issue when this portion comes up to the hearing and the board and encourage usage of this that is more consistent with the management and works on the natural area there as opposed to other options. We had opportunity to provide testimony not too long ago and perhaps you can take this testimony and make some strong arguments yourself and some reasons why this more appropriate use be made of that land.

Chris Farmer- Hi I'm Chris Farmer and I'm speaking on behalf of myself. And Emma explained in her introduction, this is an incredible Ohia/Koa forest and the opportunity to protect this and make it intact, huge area. We have the plants, the birds that are found nowhere else in the world but this island. That's an awesome ability to make a difference in protection and conservation of these birds. Also, all of the other plants found up there, all of the other Honeycreepers and birds that we haven't talked too much about, it's an opportunity to protect them from things. The Apapane, Akiapolaau, Iiwi, Omao, the whole list of birds if we don't protect the habitat they are going to start declining as well. So I strongly urge this to be included in the NARS and NARS has improved their record throughout the islands, credible conservation, credible management, and so I strongly endorse this.

Deborah Ward- Aloha kakou, my name is Deborah Ward, I'm speaking on behalf of myself and on behalf of Fred Stone, who isn't feeling well tonight and isn't able to be here. Fred Stone began the Forest Team ecosystem and Agroforestry management at the Hawaii Community College and has been working to assist young Hawaiian and local students become stewards of the forest in a way that a lot of people never thought was possible and it's such a successful program that 85% of the students that are in that program are local and native Hawaiian and I just wanted to say that as a result of some of the work that that program has done and the work of the Hakalau volunteers up at the National Wildlife Refuge, there are people like me that have the opportunity to go up and do some outplanting and some seed collecting and see the results of that effort by a lot of volunteers to protect an area such as the National Wildlife Refuge and see the birds come back in an area that the birds weren't living because it was just a pasture. And now because the trees have been restored the birds are back. It is incredibly heartwarming and touching to realize that in my lifetime this is possible. So I would like to thank the people that are working on behalf of the Natural Area Reserves System because I believe I have seen the same kinds of efforts and progress put there that have the potential to protect what remains of the native birds. I have the

opportunity to take part in the Smithsonian recovery effort of extinct bird bones that were only extinct in the last 200 years of about 40 different species of Hawaiian birds that no longer exist in the Kona forest. It was enough to make you cry everyday to realize that these birds were just alive a few years ago and they are no longer there because there was no protection. So if we're not able to do this in our lifetime there won't be birds like this for our children to experience and to remember forever.

And the other thing I wanted to say very quickly is that Fred Stone took part in a survey of botanical area just outside this Kulani reserve area, which they did with Bishop Museum, Frank Howarth, did a study of the native insects in that ecosystem that not only was it really rich with native insects, it was the richest place they had ever seen in the state of Hawaii and without insects there would be no pollination, with no pollination there would be no birds and so we really need to understand the web of the ecosystem that needs to be protected. And for that reason I strongly support this thank you for your time.

Gregory Santos- Aloha, I'm a fourth generation in Hawaii. And I have been in love with Hawaiian ecosystems since I was 16 and I was hiking with the Sierra Club on Oahu. And growing up on Oahu, Oahu ecosystems face enormous challenges. I moved here in 1983 and was fortunate enough to help in some work that provided tools for managers to restore native ecosystems. I've spent about 17 years of my life preserving and protecting native ecosystems. And so it is something near and dear to my heart. I totally support the extension of NARS, the best ecosystems to protect are the ones that are still in good shape. It's a lot easier to keep them in good shape, than to restore them once they are in bad shape, so this is a prime opportunity to protect something forever, its already a special area. I certainly hope they are successful in getting this extension.

My one concern is again, as many have voiced, this DOD section because when I was researching in the park in the past I did find documentation that in the early 60s the army did herbicide research in the Olaa area where they were aerial spraying of 245-t in an effort to discover whether something could be used as a defoliant in tropical rain forests. And this was done without even done without notifying the State of Hawaii, they did this totally in secret. This is the kind of thing that the DOD is capable of and what I'm hoping is that in negotiations with the DOD that the State take a hard look at what they plan on doing there and what kind of oversight that the state and the NARS can have in any activities that the DOD can do there and what kind of basically is what I'm saying is I'd like NARS to have them get their approval before they do anything they would have to fully disclose what it is that they would want to do. What goes on inside here is going to effect what is goes on every where around it. And the NARS is a good organization that is fully committed to what they are doing, the DOD when it comes to NARS is kind of a newby in the organization and I don't think they have that kind of credibility yet. I would encourage you folks to really scrutinize what they want to do and hopefully what you're negotiating with them. You could get legal approval of whatever they have planned. Because in the past like I say aerial spraying of 245-t on the hapuu there just to see if they could defoliate a rainforest I found shocking particularly since they didn't let anybody else know about it till after it was all done. Thank you for your time.

Kuulei Kiliona- I'm a resident here in Volcano. I'd like to present from a cultural perspective. Tonight as I read about this and called the Puu Makaala Forest Reserve. Being Hawaiian I said, Who is this? Not what is this, but who is this. The who is Puu Makaala. Puu means hill or mound. Maka means eyes, which means to be watchful and its different meanings for Makaala, one is the path Makaala, alert, vigilant, watchful, wide awake to attend to diligently. And then there's Makaala, blind but with eyes that look normal. What we're talking about tonight in this area, and calling it even Puu Makaala that mound is the beginning that's the watchful eyes of this whole area. This whole area is not just something flat and so forth and people are going to do it what needs to be done. Its all a lie. Tonight we have been discussing the Mana of that area and that land, what has happened to it, what's going to happen. We've been talking about Lokahi, unity, and many people have brought up the fact that we're not looking at it as a unit, we're looking at it in piecemeal. We're also talking about Pono, what's right for this land. There has been a whole bunch of really good testimony, every piece has been important. But we're all going to be gone and then the people who are in charge, you up here, you're going to be the ones still with the land, still looking at the land. Makaala is watchful and diligent. Do what you are doing, and if you are not Pono and

if things are not Lokahi, the meaning and Mana of this Puu Makaala is going to change. Instead of being diligent and watchful, you're going to change it to blindness, you'll still see the Puu there but there will be blindness. Things will look normal but they won't be. Thank you.

Christina Cornett- My name is Christina Cornett and I'm speaking for myself as a private citizen, landowner in Puna. I fully support the proposed NAR area. I have been in there and the surrounding areas and it is a very special place for native plants and animals and if it becomes a NAR I very much look forward to the NARS opening it up for small groups of people for access so all of the people today can see what a special place it is. Because I think once people get up there people will support the NAR even more.

Sierra McDaniel- My name is Sierra McDaniel and I just want to say I'm really excited at the possibility of this becoming a NAR. This is a special area that requires the highest level of protection and the NARS has the highest level of protection in the state can give. I'm excited for the future generations of the plants and the birds that are there but also for the future generations for kids. My daughter is native Hawaiian and I'm excited for her to go and experience this type of forest in this way. Thank you.

George DeCosta- I'm George DeCosta. How could anybody be against preservation and conservation? But the biggest issue is that we are still an occupied nation. When that gets settled all of the rest of this will get settled.

Grizzly Yamada- My name is Grizzly Yamada, I worked for the Kulani as well as supplied Kulani with 26,000 lbs of meat annually. I work both in Kulani Ranch as well as Field 33. Back in 1964 I don't know who gave the permission. Libert Landgraf gave them permission to train in Field 33. What the military did was fire blanks going through the pasture. I lost 27 heads of cattle that never was found. In Kulani I seen the boys there up in this area, they killed several Nene's, blanks laying all along the boys school area. We had a big argument with Landgraf who was the administrator of DOFAW. This had to stop. Because they have inmates there. You every put a blank in a rifle and [add material]? You can easily kill a person. I found blanks also in Field 33. I raised hell with him for letting the military go in there without my permission. He said he's going to get his foresters to help me get my animals back, they couldn't. He finally said he was going to get the National Guard to help round up animals. Never happened. Since then I never trust the DOD. Thank you.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Alan Holt and Deborah Armbruster, July 1, 2010 Volcano, HI

Department of Land and Natural Resources,

My wife and I are unable to attend the meeting at the Cooper Center for the public hearing on the portion of the Kulani Correctional Facility, TMK (3) 2-4-008-009, proposed for inclusion in the State of Hawaii Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). We want to voice our strong support for this wonderful idea to maintain a portion of Hawaii's biological heritage for the future. With so much of our fragile state being lost daily, this opportunity is a too important for us to ignore. Please keep us informed as this project moves forward.

Nick Shema, July 12, 2010 Volcano, HI

Aloha Emma

I will be unable to attend the meeting this evening concerning the expansion of the Pu'u Maka'ala NARs to include the Kulani Correctional Center property, so I would like to make a comment via email.

I have been doing bird surveys for USGS in that area for almost 20 years now and have led a dozen or so Christmas Bird Counts to Kulani, so I am very familiar with the area. I have witnessed the transformation of the forest after the removal of pigs, so I feel that it is vital to maintain the protection of this forest to its current level.

It is very important that the area be given a NAR status and that combining the area with the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR is the most logical way to go. I would love to have a place to take my birding friends when they visit Hawai'i to see our birds. There are very few locations that are open to the public where

one can see the Hawai'i Creeper, the Akepa and the Akiapola'au so having access the the Kulani forest would be just wonderful.

So I would urge DLNR to include the Kulani forest into the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR and have it open to small groups for hiking, birding and other non-motorized activities. This area is such a gem for the island that it should be taken care of with the utmost respect that it deserves.

Mahalo

Diane Ware, July 12, 2010 Volcano, HI

I'd like to thank the State and DLNR for this opportunity to extend the Pu'u Maka'ala NARS by 6,600 acres of former Kulani Facility. I have volunteered on several NARS service projects including Pu'u Maka'ala and was very impressed with the high level of management of this area, the diversity of species due to fencing and restoration.

Furthermore there is a trail entering the area from the end of Wright Rd. accessible to the public and used by many. As a Sierra Club outings leader I can lead interpretive and bird watching hikes in the forest ecosystem. We have seen rare plants planted by NARS, restored bog ecosystems, and a number of endemic birds including Elepaio, Apapane and Amakihi.

I feel this addition of high quality endemic forest is very important to the preservation of the "Vanishing Hawaiian Forest" (The Nature Conservancy) for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa

Ann Kubosa Ph.D., Biologist, July 12, 2010 Pahoa, HI

Aloha,

I am writing to encourage the proposed addition to the NAR at Pu'u Maka'ala. While I have not visited the area under consideration for inclusion due to limited access at Kulani, I have explored nearby areas and have been very impressed to find the most intact and diverse native forest that I've seen in the state near Pu'u Maka'ala. I could not believe how few weeds there were, and the elevation gives it the advantage of being relatively free of mosquitoes that carry avian malaria and pox viruses, thus it is important native bird habitat. It is imperative that we preserve as much of this high-quality forest habitat as possible for the many species of endangered and rare plants, birds, bat, invertebrates, etc, that are found there. Since access was limited in the past, there is no loss to hunters if the area is protected as a NAR and fenced to protect it from the ravages of feral ungulates.

E Malama Pono

Janice Palma-Glennie, July 13, 2010 Kailua-Kona, HI

Aloha,

I'm writing to ask that you support creation of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). Its purpose is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i" -- an important and achievable goal.

This reserve system will help protect native species and their habitat as well as protect the planet from climate change. As a Natural Area Reserve, permitted public uses will be allowed if they are consistent with the purposes of the NARS.

Please help secure this land for the protection of our island, state and planet.

Mahalo a nui loa

Shannon Rudolph, July 13, 2010 Holualoa, HI

Aloha Ms.Yuen,

I support the NARS expansion for the Kulani area, on Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo

Mark Wasser, July 13, 2010 Hilo, HI

I would like voice my strong support of the proposed extension of the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR. This area contains large tracts of intact forest habitat with high biodiversity and endangered species. It contains some of the finest remaining forest bird habitat in the State of Hawai'i, as well as habitat types not

currently protected/represented within the NARS. As this area is adjacent already protected areas, its protection would enhance habitat corridors and the protection of the forest on a landscape level. Additionally, much work, including fencing, has already been done in this area, to let that go to waste would be shameful and foolish. Finally, as this area has been under the department of Public Safety for the last 50 plus years, public access for activities such as birding and hiking would be enhanced by designation as a NAR. I strongly support the proposed extension of the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR.

Karl Magnacca, July 13, 2010

I am writing to submit testimony regarding the proposed addition of a portion of the Kulani parcel to Puu Makaala NAR. I attended the public meeting in Volcano and I won't reiterate the many reasons it would be enormously beneficial to include Kulani as a NAR, since they were covered by many of those who spoke. However, I would like to urge the BLNR to amend the addition to include the northern pasture area and the Boys' Home, along with all the roads, in the NAR. The only reason given for not including these areas was that they were not of sufficiently high ecological quality for NAR standards. However, many NARs have similar areas that are highly degraded (such as the lower elevations of Laupahoehoe) but are included in order to make the parcel cohesive and provide a buffer zone under NAR jurisdiction for the better areas.

In the case of the pasture, this land section is surrounded by intact forest. In addition, as mentioned by a testifier at the hearing, it is used by nene, and is starting to regenerate naturally. But if it is not maintained by the users of the proposed YCA facility and NARS staff do not have jurisdiction over it, it could easily become a center for invasive weeds that will require costly management in the surrounding forest. If the YCA would like to use it as a part of its program, it should be for native forest restoration, which is compatible with designation as a NAR.

Another major concern is regarding access. In the current proposal, the DOD would effectively regulate access to Kulani by holding the roads. Public access would technically be allowed, but only via very long hikes - as much as it takes to get there now by those trespassing. In addition, it will require researchers to jump through another layer of hoops in order to access the area for study. These issues could be avoided by restricting the excluded (non-NAR) area to the core developed area, which the main access road (continuing from Stainback Highway to the Boys' Home and the 1942 flow) skirts around rather than passing through.

Mahalo

Mark Ingoglia, July 13, 2010

Aloha, DLNR Chairperson, attn: Emma Yuen

Just a note of support the Proposed Extension of Pu'u Maka'ala NAR.

As a Hawaii tax payer for 25 years, I believe this is an excellent investment in our future!

Aloha

Joanne Martin, July 13, 2010 Haleiwa

I am writing to join others in supporting the proposed extension of Pu'u Maka'ala NAR. It is a well thought out proposal that will preserve a community of rare flora and fauna, much needed if Hawaii's eco-system is to be sheltered from development in carefully thought out sanctuaries like this one.

Mardi Kay LaPrade, July 13, 2010

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in support of the Proposed Extension of Pu'u Maka'ala NAR. Please help preserve in perpetuity the land and water areas that support native flora and fauna. Please protect this high-elevation native forest and the 'ope'ape'a, nene, Hawaii'i creeper, and 'akepa, the 'akiapola'au, 'ua'u, band-rumped storm petrel and many others.

These precious ecosystems represent important forest bird habitat in the high elevation areas, so critical to birds' well being since malarial parasites are restricted due to the high altitude. This habitat would also protect 11 endangered plant species and is already identified as critical habitat for 7 other plant species.

Because this area was part of the Kulani Correctional Facility access is limited. Thus access could be monitored as permitted by the Natural Area Reserve system.

Adding this area to the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR will protect years of public investment toward controlling invasive species, fencing to protect against hoofed mammals, and legal protection of endangered species.

Lets continue this progress the area made as part of the Three Mountain Alliance and extend the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Thank you

Ron Terry, July 13, 2010

I would like to state my strong support for expanding the Puu Makaala NAR by adding 6,600 acres of the former Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF).

I have worked as an environmental contractor inside KCF and seen firsthand the quality and sensitivity of the environment. Working in partnership with Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) within the context of a NAR is the appropriate management for the area. I worked with TMA as a representative of the Federal Highway Administration and became familiar with the important conservation work that they competently perform.

It will be wonderful to see this area conserved and at the same time opened up for limited and appropriate public use.

Christine Ogura, July 13, 2010 Oahu

Dear Chairperson Thielen:

This letter is written in support of extending the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) on Hawai'i Island under the existing June 2010 proposal.

This area has had a long history of effective natural resource management for over a decade, resulting in the highest quality forest left on the island. It is ungulate free and above the current mosquito line – which means the habitat has great potential to serve as critical habitat for many listed species and additional restoration of other native plants and animals. The area already has some of the highest densities of native forest birds on the island as well as several listed plant species.

Turning this former prison site into a NAR will provide the public, through volunteers and school groups, with an opportunity to learn about Hawai'i's unique wet koa and 'ohi'a forests as well as assure these areas continue to receive the best management possible to keep the area conserved for future generations.

Given the less than 40% of native habitats remaining in our state, the addition of this area to the existing NAR will be a critical turning point for insuring we do not continue to lose more. Please support the addition of this 6,600 area to the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve.

Mahalo

Lyman Perry, July 13, 2010 Volcano, HI

Aloha,

I am writing to you today in regard to the proposed expansion of the Puu Makaala NAR on the island of Hawaii. I heartily support this expansion. This addition to the NAR will insure protection of high quality native-dominated ecosystems and the endangered plants and birds that call this place home. The expansion of Puu Makaala NAR will actually increase access for the general public to an area that was formerly restricted by the Kulani Correctional Facility. Please capitalize on this opportunity to expand the Natural Area Reserve system for future generations of Hawaii's residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Don Drake, July 13, 2010

Dear Ms Yuen,

I am writing to express my support for expanding Pu'u Maka'ala NAR by incorporating the lands formerly comprising the Kulani Correctional Facility. The proposed expansion makes great sense. The area

provides some of the best remaining habitat for many native species. It is adjacent to and already-established NAR, which not only helps maintain ecological and evolutionary processes over a large spatial scale, but also facilitates management. I strongly urge the state to take advantage of this important opportunity to strengthen its commitment to conservation of Hawaii's natural heritage.

Patrick Conant, July 14, 2010

To: Ms. Laura Thielen, Chair, Board of Land and Natural Resources and Board Members

From: Patrick Conant

Subject: Testimony in Favor of Extension of Puu Makaala NAR via Addition of
TMK (3) 2-4-008-009 (POR)

Thank you for hearing testimony regarding this important addition to the Natural Area Reserve System. I only represent myself in this testimony, and that was also the case when I spoke on 7/12/10 at the hearing on this issue.

We have here a great opportunity to add an outstanding parcel to the NARS that has been well managed for conservation values for the last 15 years. By providing many Kulani inmates with vocational training in fencing, alien species control, plant propagation and forest resource management, the former Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) is now probably the best example of several different intact native plant communities (including heritage old growth koa forest) in all of Puna if not the Island of Hawaii. Under the direction of the Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) and NARS Staff, restoration and resource protection efforts have reaped great rewards. The entire parcel is now fenced and the former grazing land has been restored by outplanting, or is naturally regenerating with native Hawaiian plants. Much outplanting of threatened and endangered native plants has been done by prisoners at KCF, and other agencies such as USGS, NPS, USFWS, and lastly DOFAW, which has really helped make it all possible. Kamehameha Schools has contributed much time and funding to supporting forest restoration in this greater Olaa Forest area, as well as directly supporting the Kulani restoration work.

At this point in time, the Kulani lands are now something for former prisoners and all Big Island residents to be proud of. The bulk of the restoration work is already done. The State Department of Defense (DOD) has now taken an interest in the property may open a "Youth Challenge Academy" there, but has voiced support for this proposal. It should be possible for DOD to limit their activities to the areas with buildings so that both conservation and a youth center could and should be compatible. However, the regenerating pasture areas and the "old boy's school" should be transferred to NARS since those areas are well on their way to forest regeneration now. There could even be opportunities for resource conservation and plant propagation job training of the youths, as there was for Kulani inmates. The infrastructure for that is already there and could be put back to use without major expense.

The lands now protected by Kamehameha Schools (Keauhou Ranch) Olaa Tract of the National Park and Puu Makaala NAR, provide what is probably the best refuge on all of Mauna loa for birds such as the akepa, akiapolau and hawaii creeper. If we don't do a good job of protecting a large tract of intact native forest for these birds, they will be gone forever, and we all will be responsible for letting it happen. This is our best chance of improving their odds of survival so our children will not just know them from pretty photos in a book.

Please support the addition of this hard-won restored native Hawaiian forest to the NAR system. I believe we owe it to the former Kulani inmates and to all Hawaii residents of the future. The United Nations has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. What better way to observe that in Hawaii than to add to NARS the best parcel of high elevation native Hawaiian forest in East Hawaii!

Moku Loa Group/Sierra Club, July 14, 2010

Written comments submitted by Diane Ware, Kalani Gardens, Board and Conservation Comm. Member
The Moku Loa Group of the Sierra Club representing over 800 members is in strong support of the proposal to add 6,600 acres of former Kulani Correctional Facility to NARS (TMK (3) 2-4-008-009).

The proposal provides an accurate evaluation of the high quality native forest ecosystem under consideration, wildlife present including endangered and threatened species, and description of ongoing management practices that have lead to improved quality of forest.

Based on the proposal the Moku Loa Group believes there will be a number of benefits to the expansion of Pu'u Maka'ala NARS:

An increase in diversity and continuity of protected native ecosystem which is critical for survival of all native forest birds

Watershed protection that is vital in protecting water quality and prevention of erosion and sedimentation

The future release of the 'Alala is dependent on a large area of good quality understory

Minimizing invasive species that have a negative effect on the native ecosystem

The continuation of the horticulture program that has contributed thousands of native propagated plants for public and private reforestation projects

Furthermore this proposal is consistent with the Puna Community Development Plan's Malama 'i Ka 'Aina section to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources and the implementation of a Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone for Volcano.

There is currently a limited trail system open to the public in Pu'u Maka'ala NARS that could be expanded. The trail offers excellent bird watching and access for restoration projects. The Sierra Club offers service outings in NARS areas and is looking forward to working with DLNR to include the Kulani area in our service projects. We would like to see future use of the corectional facility area to continue with conservation efforts directed at ongoing horticulture (proagation of native plants) and as cultural and or environmental education/ for youth or inmates. The Kulani forest provides a perfect setting for these endeavors.

With over 60% of native ecosystems already degraded in Hawaii State and in view of the high quality of protection provided by NARS, The Moku Loa Group endorses this proposed extension as a holistic approach to the native ecosystem management.

Nani KM Pogline , *July 14, 2010 Keaau, HI*

Dear Emma Yuen,

I attended the hearing on the proposed extension of Puu Makaala Natural Reserve held at Cooper Center July 12. I was discouraged that is meeting was held in Volcano where it was very inconvenient for anyone but Volcano residents to attend. I was told this was because the location is selected according to the nearest effected community. This is debatable, as the common access to this property is Panaewa. It leads one to wonder if the whole thing was a rail road operation, being that the majority of people in support of this NARS switch over live in Volcano. Neglecting the views and values of others is as the Hawaiian representatives spoke, not pono. Ignoring the rights of the off road recreational vehicle users, and the rights of the old time local hunters is not pono. This kind of one sided take over all across the state will lead only to civil unrest. As anger rises, unlawful acts may follow. The local people do not often come to the hearings, because they don't believe that they will be heard or considered. They don't feel they can speak the lingo. The consequences of these decisions are often not understood until it is too late. There is no effort on the part of your various organizations to translate in common terms, the changes these actions will make on life style. These NARS take overs are drastically changing life styles. Although the belief behind the NARS is for the good of all, there are other scientific views not considered. No credit is given to the "uneducated natives,"as the completely biased people behind this push will only consider their prejudice PHD view point.

Thank you for your attention.

Glen Hisashima, *July 14, 2010*

Aloha, my name is Glen Hisashima, born and raised on this island. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on the "Proposed Extension of Puu Makaala Natural Reserve". I am not a conservationist nor do I claim to have the expertise in this area.

I am a concern citizen that "Does not support the proposed extension of the "Puu Makaala, Natural Area Reserve" with the addition of the 6,600 acres from the former Kulani Correctional Facility.

I speak against the proposal of adding more land into the inventory of the conservationist groups. They are not being honest with the people of Hawai'i, they are using their scientific agenda to take away lands for their purpose.

Over the past 20+ years, I have watched the Conservation Programs that were developed between the Department of Public Safety and the initial "Olaa-Kilauea Conservation Groups. As of this date I

have observed no changes to the use of these lands. Presently, the conservation groups and KCF staff are working together to protect these areas. The rules for the use of these areas has changed making it clear as to what can and can't be done to protect the environment.

All or most all of the Feral pigs, sheep, and goats were removed from the study areas, fence lines were installed, and entrance into these areas were limited to the conservationist only, the general public could not get access into this area without prior authorization of the Olaa-Kilauea Group or KCF. KCF maintained the entrance to these areas for many of years even prior to the formation of the Olaa-Kilauea Group.

There is a perception that the Three Mountain Alliance Group, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and other conservation groups were in the planning stages of this proposal with the anticipation of the closure of the Kulani Correctional Facility. Now with the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy as a new player to this game, the timing was right to remove the 6,600 acres prior to their program being fully implemented.

Entrance into the area will still be limited. Only the conservationist is allowed into this area, general population are unable to enter on to these lands. With no feral animals in the area, there are no hunters entering onto the property. The Department of Defense, National Guard Youth Challenge Academy will maintain the access into this area as did KCF.

Human, Plants and Birds will continue to coexist with each other into the future as observed for the past 20+ years. There are no future plans for any improvements or use of these lands that will change the conservation status.

Tetsuya "Grizzly" Yamada, July 15, 2010 Hilo, HI

My testimony is against Department of Defense and the Natural Area Reserve System from taking over the "Kulani Correctional Facility Area."

1. This property is rightfully Crown land and should be returned back to the rightful owners.
2. All public land should have full access without any restrictions to hunting, fishing, hiking, herbal gathering and family gatherings.
3. I believe all public land should be protected, but let take a step back into history to the early 1960's.

a. DLNR gave the DOD the use of thousands of acres below Kulani. Honor Camp. DOD used these areas to test some poisonous gas and its effects on wildlife.

No one knows what type of gas was used. Maybe DLNR knows but no one talked about it. Right MR. Landgraft?

This gas killed all types of wildlife, birds, pigs, rats, mongooses, etc...etc...everything, 100%.

If the wind had change direction, it would have killed all the Kulani inmates, personnel, and people who went to Kulani Craft shop.

b. DLNR permitted DOD to use this property without any public testimony.

This is forest Reserve(Public hunting land). Hunters could also be killed as well as anyone driving on stainback Road.

c. Who is responsible if any one was killed?

d. Where was our elected officials?

e. With the above mentioned facts, who can we trust?

Mahalo

Lydia Garvey, Public Health Nurse, July 15, 2010 Clinton, OK

This is an excellent opportunity to preserve this spectacular, unique, precious area- that is under so many threats. Protect Our Public lands, waters, health, sanity & wildlife!

Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species.

Thank you

Larry Katahira, July 16, 2010

I fully support the proposal to include a minimum of 6,600 acres of former KCF lands to expand Puu Makaala NAR. This proposed area contains many State and Federal endangered bird and plant species not found at Puu Makaala NAR; and this area represents a vital link of high elevation wet to mesic forests that are contiguous to forested lands of Kamehameha Schools and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Due to the significance of Kulani lands, a conservation partnership was formed with Department of Public Safety, DOFAW, Kamehameha Schools, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in 1994. The primary goal of this partnership was to have large tracts of contiguous native forest that would create a landscape-ecosystem that could be managed for rare and endangered plants and animals. This unique partnership is unprecedented and a model for regional management in the State of Hawaii.

Since the inception of the partnership in 1994, the proposed 6,600 acres plus several hundreds acres of former pasture lands within KFR have been managed similar to how other NARS are managed, i. e., construction of ungulate proof fences, removal of pigs, sheep, goats, cattle, and aggressive alien plants. Millions of dollars from State, Federal, and private sources, and thousands of inmate hours have been invested in this partnership endeavor. Hence, today almost the entire 6,600 acres and former pasture lands are now ungulate free and recovering from years of severe impact and decline.

In addition to the proposed 6,600 acres, several hundred acres of former pasture lands need to be included in this proposal. These former pasture lands are recovering from ungulate damage, and many endangered forest birds (akiapolaau, akepa, creeper, io) are regularly observed in these areas. In addition, several endangered mints are now thriving in these former pastures. If these lands are omitted, the proposed 6,600 acres would be nearly bisected and possibly affect the long term recovery of the native species, especially the rare and endangered species.

Also, the former Boys Home should definitely be included in this proposal. The immediate surrounding area contains many rare high elevation native plant species and endangered forest birds. In the early to mid 1990's the Boys Home was occasionally used for military exercises which appeared to be very incompatible and possibly disruptive to the adjacent forest especially for rare and endangered birds and their daily activities.

Finally, the facilities at KCF should be included in this proposal or a revised one. The facility would allow a wider spectrum of public use than the proposed Youth Challenge Academy. There is no other public facility surrounded with native forests containing rare and endangered forest birds and plants on this Island or the entire State of Hawaii that is very accessible via 2 wheel drive vehicle. Hilo is approximately 30 minutes away. This facility could provide for educational workshops, day field trips for schools, conferences, house students and teachers (grade school to universities), and provide opportunities for University of Hawaii students and faculty, and organizations such as Boys Scouts, Hawaiian groups, etc. Groups could assist in removal of alien plants, monitor the recovery of the forest, participate in bird and plant identification, outplant Silverswords, and assist managers and researchers in many other activities.

This would allow the general public to finally get to experience and appreciate the true Hawaiian forest that is in their backyard. Throughout Hawaii, native forests and preserves (NARS, TNC, USFWS Wildlife Refuges, National Parks) containing rare and endangered forest birds and plants are remote with very limited public access. This is an unprecedented opportunity to provide for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on your proposal.

Rick Warshauer, July 16, 2010 Volcano, HI

Dear Board Members,

My name is Rick Warshauer, a conservation biologist from the Big Island, and I offer strong support for the proposed addition to the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR. I do, however, have some suggested changes in the proposed boundaries and offer some additional information and perspective to that of the thorough submittal from your staff. I am quite familiar with the area, have spent time for over a decade doing plant survey work and restoration activities at Kulani with the Three Mountain Alliance (TMA, then called Ola'a-Kilauea Partnership).

The addition extends the windward Mauna Loa wet forests of the existing NAR up into the drier mesic closed and open forests. In doing so, it adds to the NAR koa forest and other vegetation types and a suite of additional plant and animal species, many of which are quite rare. It is also contiguous with the

protected upper Keauhou Ranch, connecting the continuum of habitat types and species assemblages upward to the subalpine environment and across to the adjacent drier national park lands. This variation, connectivity and large collective area are all vital to the long-term conservation of all these landowners' biological resources, as small areas are not as effective in achieving long-term conservation. None of the unique upper mesic habitats of windward Mauna Loa are protected at present, and this addition will be a first. While the adjacent state Kipuka 'Ainahou Nene Sanctuary is sizeable and shared many of the same resources, it is unfenced and run primarily as an archery hunting and breeding area for mouflon sheep, and it has been progressively degraded by them since its establishment in 1982.

An exceptional aspect of this addition is that it is already fenced from ungulates and it has already undergone extensive evaluation, weed control and considerable restoration activity under the TMA, an important "freebie" for the NAR system staff. Numerous species are showing great recovery, including in the former logged and grazed pasture areas.

The ongoing recovery from ungulate damage of the many fenced vegetation types has allowed the recovery of numerous species, spontaneously and with assistance. Among the former are two rare plant species that are limited to this addition. *Plantago pachyphylla* (not *Plantago hawaiiensis* as indicated in the submittal) has limited occurrences in similar habitats on three other islands, but has been extirpated from the rest of this island due to the continuing expansion of feral pigs and mouflon sheep. *Plantago* is extending its occurrence at Kulani, but an important part of its range is in the exclusion area immediately north of the water catchment/reservoir area. I found an apparently new species of the native shrub *Dubautia* along the road to the Boys' School some years ago, and it too is expanding its range to the immediate north of the excluded pasture area, but it is not known outside of Kulani. Its closest relative may be a shrub of the mesic forest on Moloka'i. *Tetraplasandra kawaiensis* is a large, rare tree of which only about ten occur on the Big Island. Two are found in the excluded pasture area at Kulani. It has been resistant to propagation, so protection of all known individuals is essential to its survival.

Freed from competition with ungulates and disturbance at Kulani, free-ranging nene have been increasing their use of Kulani, most importantly within the excluded pasture area, as well as the water reservoir. Some of these birds have been fitted recently with transmitters that have documented extensive cross-island flights within the uplands, and Kulani is an important hub of their movements as well as a significant foraging area. Nene usage of former pasture land at Kulani is far more desirable than that which is happening in vegetable farmers' fields in nearby Volcano and in the hazardous conditions of golf courses also visited by island nene.

Having a road running through a NAR is unusual, as unregulated vehicular traffic is not conducive to protecting the sensitive natural resources of a NAR. Disruptive noise, physical disturbance and introduction of weeds and coqui frogs are all frequent results of unregulated road access, and I strongly urge that the boundaries and management of this addition be adjusted to prevent such problems, specifically by including the road to the Boys' School and the remains of the Boys' School within the NAR boundary. The present NAR addition proposal excludes the pasture area to the northwest of the former prison buildings, and I feel strongly that it should be added to the NAR, including the connecting area immediately to the west of the buildings. The only exclusions should be the former prison buildings themselves and the minimum area needed to include the supportive water supply structures and wastewater treatment facilities. The adjacent previously disturbed areas were weeded by TMA staff in the past and have shown considerable natural recovery. If they are not included in the NAR addition, there will be recurrent weed problems that only the skilled NAR staff can manage without adding jeopardy to the NAR itself.

The former prison buildings and immediate support infrastructure areas are the only portions of the Kulani parcel that should be excluded from the NAR addition. As the cost to either maintain or dismantle these is sizeable, perhaps the Board should consider a multiple-entity, shared use of these facilities, perhaps extending to national or international conservation and educational entities, considering the exceptional ecological resource value and sensitivity of the area. I feel strongly that the Board should also limit any state Department of Defense use to education only, and all training and other disturbing activities at the buildings or beyond be prohibited. A non-exclusive and shared use of the facilities would both reduce the cost burden and also act as a check on usage. My land-use concern is further fueled by events that I witnessed from a small plane over flight of Kulani about 25 years ago, when we witnessed military helicopters and troops doing an "assault" training exercise at the Boys' School. This was very

disturbing to the endangered forest birds and was done secretly with no public oversight—something that I would not wish to risk a repeat of.

One last consideration is the very significant hazard of lava flow coverage of this area that lies along the very active northeast rift zone of Mauna Loa. Take a look at a geological map or Google Earth to see the immediate proximity of the 1942 and 1984 lava flows and how close their eruptive vents are. Such are a natural part of this windward Mauna Loa ecology, but make investment in non-necessary infrastructure quite risky.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony, and a big mahalo for considering this vital addition to the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR.

Kat Brady, Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, *July 16, 2010 Honolulu, HI*

Aloha Ms. Yuen:

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for our incarcerated individuals, improve the quality of justice in Hawai'i, and enhance public safety by promoting smart justice policies.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of enhanced protection for Pu'u Maka'ala. This natural treasure, this *wahi pana* deserves the highest level of protection because it is irreplaceable.

You might wonder why a social justice group would be interested in the protection of this special place. One of the reasons is that Kulani Correctional Facility, which was closed last November, played a very important role in protecting this incredible jewel.

DLNR's website on Pu'u Maka'ala states "*Maintenance of the fences and monitoring pig control is proposed. Also recommended is removal and monitoring of weeds targeted for control. These priority weeds include yellow Himalayan raspberry, Clidemia, and firebrush.*"

The inmates at Kulani worked with DLNR to construct fences to keep the pigs from uprooting the fragile flora in parts of the forest. They also grew koa seedlings for replanting in the forest. How can 75-100 youth and some counselors maintain the facility *and* protect the forest? To turn over this responsibility to the Youth Challenge program appears to be wilful neglect on the part of the state. It is like asking your auntie to store a priceless Rembrandt in her moldy basement.

We hope that DOD does not ultimately take over and that the facility will be reopened once again. The majority of Hawai'i's incarcerated population is composed of nonviolent offenders being held at the least restrictive custody levels. Reopening Kulani would benefit the county of Hawai'i and the forest.

Pu'u Maka'ala is one of those rare places in the universe. We must treat it as the priceless resource that it is and do everything possible to protect this gem. The Ola'a Forest Reserve is one of the few places left on the planet that evidence the ancient landscape. This place has tremendous environmental and cultural significance to the people of Hawai'i nei.

The protection of these places has great benefit to the people of Hawai'i as illustrated by the current efforts at Pu'u Maka'ala where giant hapu'u ferns, o'hi'a trees and naio are thriving. This is the habitat needed for the many rare and endangered birds that live in the forest. These conservation efforts also help to build resilience within the ecosystem enabling it to defend against the threat of disease or disaster.

We believe that the forest should be protected as one contiguous zone and urge DOFAW to afford the highest protection to this region.

Pu'u Maka'ala is rare jewel in Hawai'i's environmental and cultural crown and we look to you for the leadership so desperately needed to protect this *wahi pana*.

A Chinese proverb says,

"If you are thinking one year ahead, sow seed.

If you are thinking 10 years ahead, plant a tree.

If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people."

Mahalo nui for seeking this important designation and for the opportunity share our thoughts with you on this special resource.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action, *July 16, 2010*

Aloha Emma,

Mahalo for your email. Please make this email a part of the record on Pu'u Makaala NARS.

I am mailing today (via U.S. Post) a map noted in my testimony about 57 present and former military sites on Hawaii Island that are in need of military clean up of unexploded ordnance and toxins, including radiation contamination.

I also want to note that in the 1960s when the DLNR gave the Army a lease along Steinback Hwy just below Kulani (in Hilo's watershed) to do "Weather testing" the military was actually testing chemical weapons. One of the weapons was nerve gas GB, an odorless, colorless, volatile gas that can kill in minutes in dosages of one milligram, approximately 1/50th of a drop. In the same time frame of the 1960s the Army was firing Depleted uranium (DU) radiation spotting rounds at Pohakuloa where the DLNR also leased land to the Army. DU has a half life of 4.5 billion years and is virtually impossible to clean up because it is a short wave length alpha particle, difficult to detect, but poses serious health risks when inhaled.

In the nerve gas testing case, DLNR canceled the lease. DLNR should be doing the same at Pohakuloa over radiation contamination. And certainly DLNR should keep the military out of Kulani, the center of a NARS.

Thank you for your good work.

MAP

Richard Camp, July 16, 2010 Volcano, HI

Dear Chairperson,

This is a personal testimony. I am in support of expanding Pu'u Maka'ala NAR to include parcel TMK (3) 2-4-008-009. I have had the unique opportunity to analyze the forest bird survey data collected throughout the Hawaiian Islands and was surprised to find a forest bird hotspot right in my backyard. My research showed that the proposed tract of forest included the endangered, Nene, Io, Akiapolaau, Hawaii Creeper, and Hawaii Akepa, the range restricted Omao and Iiwi, as well as the common and widespread Hawaii Elepaio, Hawaii Amakihi, and Apapane. With the exception of the Palila, this parcel is one of only five areas on the Big Island where the entire assemblage of extant native forest birds exists. The densities and stability of all those birds is second to only to Hakalau Forest NWR and far exceeds the population patterns in the other three areas. One likely reason is that this parcel has received proactive management to control weeds and ungulates, and restore the forest. The protection and management afforded by a NAR will put Pu'u Maka'ala on par with Hakalau, and help ensure the existence of the remaining Hawaiian forest birds. Again, I support the expansion of Pu'u Maka'ala to include parcel TMK (3) 2-4-008-009.

Brooks Rownd, July 16, 2010 Hilo, HI

Aloha,

I am writing to support the proposed extension of Pu'u Maka'ala NAR with the addition of former "Kulani Correctional Facility" lands. The Kulani lands are a keystone in the windward upper elevation native forests, connecting native plant and animal populations on the southern slopes of Mauna Loa to those on the Saddle and windward Mauna Kea. Kulani, Pu'u Maka'ala NAR and adjacent lands include some of our largest, most diverse and best-preserved native habitats, and are home to many rare native species. Protection of these upper elevation habitats will become increasingly important for the survival of our native species in the future, as the lower elevation forests are likely to be more degraded by non-native species over time. Kulani has recently been successfully managed for the benefit of native species as part of the Three Mountain Alliance, and this protection should continue in close coordination with the adjacent Pu'u Maka'ala NAR units. Pu'u Maka'ala NAR is a natural treasure whose protection will benefit countless generations, and the Kulani lands are a natural addition which will vastly increase the value, diversity and success of the Natural Area Reserve.

Linda Pratt, July 16, 2010 Volcano, HI

To the Chairperson,

I strongly support the addition of more than 6,000 acres of the Kulani Project lands to Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. Over the years I have been fortunate to be able to spend time at Kulani during bird

counts and various research projects. This expanse of montane forests, with its native bird populations and populations of many rare and endangered endemic plants is highly worthy of protection. The inclusion of this parcel greatly enhances the value of the adjacent forest lands and increases the likelihood that the native forests of the area will be able to persist unaltered and retain their complement of native plants and animals. The Natural Area System is the most appropriate State entity to protect and care for the precious resources of Kulani. Over the years the NARS system and its highly committed and qualified staff have shown themselves to be excellent stewards of the resources of the people of the State of Hawai'i.

At the public meeting held in July in Volcano, there was overwhelming support for the inclusion of Kulani into the NARS, and only a few consumptive users of public lands who were negative about the addition. It is time to move beyond the out-moded idea of multiple use on every acre of state land and continue on the path of protection of the remaining native forests of Hawai'i, both for the sake of protection of the unique biological resources of the State and as a legacy for the present and future citizens of Hawai'i. I have great faith in the ability of the NARS system to both protect these public lands and make them accessible to the people. Please do what you can to make the Kulani addition to Pu'umaka'ala a reality.

Thank you.

Thane Pratt, Wildlife Biologist (Retired), *July 16, 2010 Volcano, HI*

Dear Chairperson,

I can't tell you how thrilled I was to learn that the native forest at Kulani was proposed for addition to the Natural Area Reserve System. I grew up in the islands and worked for 20 years as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Department of Interior on the Big Island. I have a keen interest in the conservation of native plants and animals in the islands, particularly birds. In the 1970s, Kulani was first recognized as an area of prime importance to Hawaiian honeycreepers and other native forest birds. Shortly after, some of the earliest attempts to manage and improve forest habitat for birds were initiated at Kulani. Trial fencing and pig removal at Kulani were so successful at restoring forest habitat that bird populations there have remained stable or increased while decreasing elsewhere in the State where forest is not as intensively managed. It would seem a natural culmination of these successful management efforts to transfer the final product--a restored Kulani--to the State's premier forest management network, The Natural Area Reserve System.

I congratulate DLNR on the successful restoration of the Kulani forest, and I wholeheartedly support the inclusion of Kulani in the Natural Area Reserve System!

Mahalo plenty.

Tlaloc Tokuda, *July 16, 2010*

Dear Chairperson, attn: Emma Yuen,

I totally support the proposed extension of Pu'u Maka'ala, these are the following reasons:

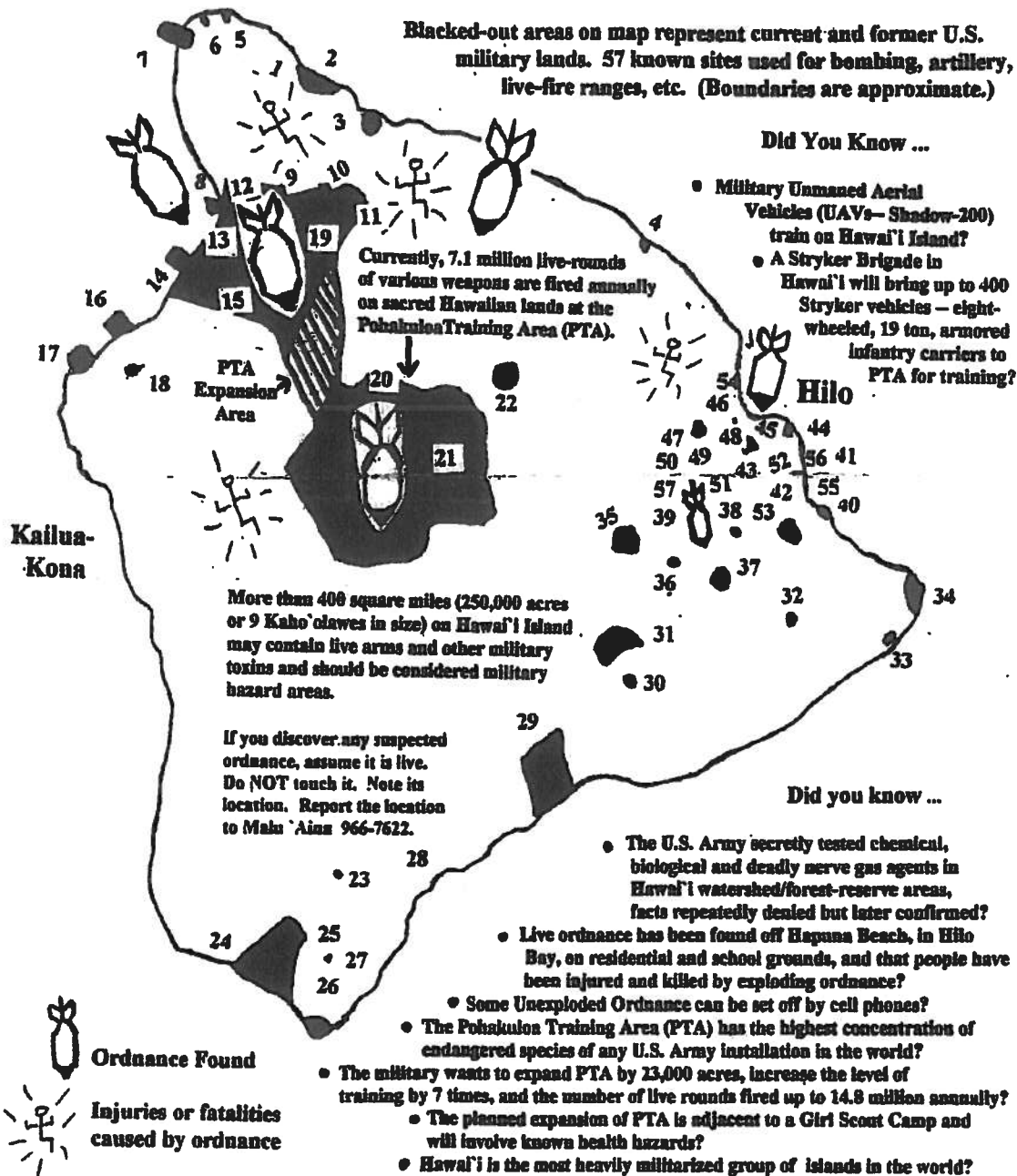
- The purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."
- The proposed Pu'u Maka'ala NAR extension will protect koa-'ohi'a forest, mamane-naio forest on the windward slope of Mauna Loa.
- The proposed extension is part of high-elevation native forest that provides habitat for the endangered 'ope'ape'a (bat), endangered nene (goose), endangered Hawai'i creeper, endangered Hawai'i 'akepa, endangered 'akiapola'au, endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel), candidate endangered band-rumped storm petrel, and other native birds, such as the 'apapane, 'amakihi, 'i'iwi, 'elepaio, 'oma'o, pueo, and kolea. The area is also adjacent to a proposed release site for the critically endangered 'alala (crow).
- The ecosystems in this area are important for the representation of forest bird habitat, especially as climate change is forecasted to increase disease vector ranges. The area has some of the highest densities of native forest birds areas on the island and is very important because most of the area is above 5,000 feet, where climate restricts mosquitoes and development of malarial parasites

- The proposed extension also provides habitat for 11 endangered plant species, and is designated critical habitat for 7 endangered plant species.
- This area was part of the Kulani Correctional Facility from 1946 to 2009 with very limited access. As a Natural Area Reserve, permitted public uses will be allowed if they are consistent with the purposes of the NARS.
- As part of the Three Mountain Alliance, this area has already benefited from many years of management for native resources, including controlling invasive species, fencing to keep introduced hoofed mammals from destroying the native forest, and legal protection of endangered species. Adding this area to the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR will protect the public's investment.

Thank you.

Sites NOT for Tourists or Locals!

Military Hazard Areas on Hawai'i Island



Military Clean-Up NOT Build-Up!

contact: Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action
P.O. Box AB Kurtistown, Hawai'i 96760. Phone (808) 966-7622. email ja@interpac.net
<http://www.malu-aina.org> <http://maluaina.pitas.com>

List of Current & Former Military Sites on Hawai'i Island (List still in formation)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jungle Training Area, North Shore 2. Waipio Bombing Targets 3. Jungle Training Area near Waipio 4. Ninoole Radar Station 5. Upolu Point 6. Navy Rocket Range, Hawi 7. Big Island Bombing Targets --
Mahukona Range 8. Navy Bombing Range, Kawaihae 9. Kamuela Reservoir 10. Kamuela Camp #4 11. Anti-tank, artillery, impact range 12. Nansay Hawaii - Ouli 13. Big Island Bombing Targets --
Puako 14. Puako 15. Lalamilo Firing Range 16. Big Island Bombing Targets --
Mano Point 17. Makolea Point 18. Kona & Huehue Station 19. Waikoloa Maneuver Area 20. Camp Kilohana 21. Mauna Loa Training Area 22. Camp Pohakuloa--anti-tank,
artillery, impact Range 23. Kahuku Ranch Radar Station 24. Pakini Bombing Range 25. Missile Tracking Station 26. Ka La'e Military Reservation 27. Morse Field 28. Pahala Hospital 29. Ka'u Bombing Range 30. Kilauea Crater maneuver/impact
Area 31. Kilauea Military Camp 32. Pololu 33. Kapoho Target Area 34. Big Island Bombing Targets --
Cape Kumukahi 35. Waiakea Forest Reserve 36. Firing Range near Mt. View 37. Combat Training near Mt. View | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 38. Hilo Research Site
(near Kurtistown) 39. Ola'a Mill Camp 40. Big Island Bombing Targets --
Kaloli Point 41. Wahine Maka Nui 42. Kea'au 43. Waiakea Storage Area 44. Big Island Bombing Targets --
Leleiwi 45. Kalaniana'ole Camp 46. LST Landing Beach 47. Pi'ihonua Ordnance Storage 48. Waianuenue Camp 49. Jungle Warfare Area 50. Kaumana Camp 51. Kanoolehua Camp 52. Panaewa Tract 1 53. Camp Furneau 54. Hilo Storage Site 55. Hilo Prisoner of War Camp 56. General Lyman Field 57. Army Impact Range, Waiakea <p>Ordnance Found:</p> <p>Hapuna Beach 1995, 1997, 1998</p> <p>Hilo Breakwater 2002</p> <p>Richardson's Beach 2002</p> <p>Waimea Middle School 2002</p> <p>Waikoloa Fire 1998</p> <p>Anekona Estates 1998</p> <p>Waimea Country 1998</p> <p>Chock Inn 1998</p> <p>Pheasant Ridge 1997</p> <p>Waikoloa Elem. School 1994</p> <p>O'ili Parcel circa 1993</p> <p>Ola'a 1955</p> <p>Injuries & fatalities caused by ordnance:</p> <p>Pepeekeo 1956 fatality</p> <p>Parker Ranch 1954 - 2 fatalities</p> <p>Mamalahoe Hwy. 1945 fatality</p> <p>Pu'u Pa 1983 injury</p> |
|--|--|



Date: July 12, 2010

Memo to: Mr. Paul Conry, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

From: Sheila Conant, Ph. D.
[REDACTED]
Honolulu, HI 96822



Subject: Support for the Proposal to Expand Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve by
Adding Kulani Lands

In 1972 I began bird surveys as part of the Hawaii International Biological Project. One of my transects went through the Kilauea Forest Reserve, which belongs to Bishop Estate/Kamehameha Schools. The biodiversity of this area was greater than any Hawaiian rain forest I have ever worked in even to this day. East of this forest reserve is the Kulani Correctional Facility, 6,600 acres of which has been proposed as an addition to the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. This proposal does not include the developed lands of the Facility; rather they include lands occupied primarily by native forests of remarkable diversity and with minimal disturbance by invasive species.

The lands in the proposed addition have been part of those managed by the Three Mountain Alliance for a number of years, and, as a result, represent a significant investment in natural resource management. The proposal details the many important features of the proposed addition, including the many endangered plants and birds found therein. At least part of the area is included in designated critical habitat for some of these endangered species. The proposed addition would greatly increase the size of the Natural Area Reserve and comprise a large, continuous tract of intact native forest that is already being managed in a manner similar to that of NARS management. Dozens of endemic plants and animals would receive more effective protection if the proposal is approved.

I have served more than 12 years on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission, and it is only in recent years that there have been any additions to the system, which remained static in terms of size for more than two decades.

I strongly urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve this proposal.

Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group

Public Land for Public Use
447 Kalanianaʻole Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720
contact@maunakearug.com

CHAIRMAN
Wayne Blyth

July 12, 2010

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Department of Land and Natural Resources
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

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Hiking

Chris Seymour
Bicycling

ATTN: Emma Yuen

Dennis Vierra
OHV

Pat Reppun
Equestrian

Dear Chairperson Thielen:

Submitted herewith is testimony on the proposed extension of the Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve in which certain amendments are requested.

MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

Big Island Gun Dogs

Hawaii Hunting Association

Pig Hunters of Hawaii

Rock Island Riders

Big Island
Mountain Bike Association

It is understood that the hearing of July 12, 2010 is for the purpose of accepting public testimony on a proposal to place land formerly occupied by the Kulani Correctional Facility and administered by the Department of Public Safety into the Natural Area Reserves System administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, with the exception of certain core areas that are to be transferred to the Hawaii Department of Defense. Areas excluded from the NAR *"include the main campus of the facility, the Boy's School, and other disturbed areas or roads"*, according to the proposal.

There have apparently been no other proposals suggested nor hearings held on alternative uses for the former prison site. While we have concerns over lack of public involvement in the process that led to the subject hearing, we could support the proposal if the following conditions are met:

First and most importantly, reasonable public vehicular access needs to be provided to and through the proposed NAR. After an absence of 60 years, the public owners are entitled to visit these former forest reserves. Roads excluded from the NAR and open to the public should include that which originates at the terminus of Stainback Highway and proceeds past the Boy's School to Powerline Road and the 1942 Lava Flow. An additional road open to public access should be that which follows the northeastern

boundary fence adjacent to the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve. The latter road would support hunting where *"high populations of pigs occur in Forest Reserve lands to the east"*, reducing animal pressure on the NAR eastern boundary fence. Jurisdiction over these roads should remain with DOFAW, exclusive of NAR control.

In April 2010, 5,795 acres were added to the Kahaualea NAR, increasing the size of the Hawaii Island Natural Area Reserves System by 7 percent to 88,330 acres. The proposed Puu Makaala NAR extension would constitute an additional 7 percent increase, raising NARS total island land area to 94,930 acres. There has been no additional staff or supporting resources identified to accommodate this increased management responsibility, nor is any deemed likely in the foreseeable future. Planned NARS staff and budgetary reductions were discussed at the Natural Area Reserves System Commission meeting of August 25, 2009. Increasing land management responsibility while reducing resources does not seem a logical progression.

Land in the proposed extension has been described as *"probably the finest and highest quality forest on the island of Hawaii"*, and would presumably require a proportionately high level of NARS management attention. As an additional stipulation for support, we propose the mitigating measure of removing an approximately equal-sized substandard portion of the existing Puu Makaala NAR and returning it to forest reserve status. Such action would provide an adequate level of land protection, permit concentration of available NARS resources on priority management objectives, and enhance public access.

Past attempts have been made to remove the easternmost portion of the existing Puu Makaala NAR on the basis that it does not qualify as a *"unique natural resource ... as relatively unmodified as possible"*, as stated in the relevant statute [Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 195, Natural Area Reserves System, §195-1]. This former forest reserve is populated with ash and eucalyptus trees as part of a timber management area, and contains major infestations of non-native palm grass, waiawi, and rubus. Citing obstacles to effective management due to marginal land condition, a previous NARS island manager recommended departmental discussion on removal of that portion of the NAR.

The aforementioned section of the existing NAR is immediately adjacent to, and shares a boundary with the Olaa Rainforest section of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, in seeming contradiction to NARS management policy: *"the Natural Area Reserves System shall not include unnecessary duplications of ecosystems or geologic features already protected in Federal Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, or private conservation groups."* [Management Policies of the Natural Area Reserves System, dated May 23, 1997; Appendix C – Reserve Designation Process, *Number of Areas*, Page 2].

Should the former Kulani Correctional Facility be incorporated into the existing Puu Makaala NAR, we propose its easternmost section be simultaneously returned to the Olaa Forest Reserve. The suggested western boundary of the excluded portion would follow the National Park boundary north to the Puu Makaala Aku Unit, align with the Aku Unit's eastern boundary, and proceed north along Army Road. The proposed exclusion is estimated to comprise 5,600 acres, yielding a Puu Makaala NAR net land increase of 1,000 acres.

It is further requested that the Board meeting considering this proposal be scheduled for Hilo, where persons most affected by its actions are afforded the opportunity to participate.

Respectfully submitted,


Wayne Blyth, Chairman

cc: Rob Pacheco
Hawaii Forest and Trail
[REDACTED] Queen Kaahumanu Highway
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Proposal for the Extension of Pu u Maka ala Natural Area Reserve (NARS)
meeting at Cooper Center, Volcano, Monday, July 12, 6:30 PM
comments by Cory Harden, [REDACTED] Hilo, Occupied Hawai'i, 96721
[REDACTED]

"It would be a mistake to allow a decision of this magnitude to be made by one individual or a small group of elected officials." That's Governor Lingle, talking about civil unions. So why did the public, and even some staff, not know about plans to close Kulani Correctional Facility and open a Youth Challenge Academy till it hit the news?

I support the NARS proposal, and this meeting is a good start on what the Kulani area really needs--community-based planning, instead of top-down, closed-door planning. Planning should include consideration of a Pu'uhonua alternative to prisons. Planning should also include answers to these questions:

1-Why was Kulani Correctional Facility closed?

Hawai'i needs more prison beds, not fewer. According to Life of the Land, Kulani was one of the most successful minimum security prisons in Hawai'i with the leading sex offender treatment program". [1] Kulani inmates provided "millions of dollars in labor to the County of Hawai'i" [2] Inmates helped "manage some of the state's best native forests..." [3]

2-Why was the closing so chaotic? Records were illegally burned in an open pit. One staff person, concerned that it wasn't right to burn them, took some home.

3-Why are there rumors that sex offenders from Kulani were released, though their treatment wasn't complete?

4-Why does the State DOD (Department of Defense) want a 25-year commitment for Kulani lands? 25 years was cited in an e-mail from the County to the wife of Kulani's former warden, according to *Environment Hawai'i*.

5-What plans does the military have for 7,200 acres at Kulani where they now plan cleanup of unexploded ordnance?

6-Were requirements for public input met before a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) was signed to allow a Youth Challenge Academy? The MOA was between State (DOD) and DPS (Department of Public Safety) and concerned expanding the executive order for the improved area of KCF (Kulani Correctional Facility)—about 300 acres.

7-What happened at the June 10, 2010 BLNR (Board of Land and Natural Resources) meeting where Kulani was discussed? BLNR considered terminating the DPS permit and granting a DOD permit for 5 acres to do an EA for hazardous materials. Staff notes mention a 'multi-phase project' and say there will probably be "requests to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for amendments of the executive orders and/or re-set-asides of the lands to various State agencies." I couldn't find much information on the website before the meeting, I couldn't go to Honolulu for the meeting, and the minutes of the meeting are not yet posted.

8-Do military plans follow plans already made for Kulani?

2007 MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between TMA (Three Mountain Alliance/ DPS (Department of Public Safety)

2008 TMA Management Plan

June 2000 Wetland Restoration Project around Mauna Loa Boy's School

1999 Final EA (Environmental Assessment) and Management Plan for Oia'a-Kilauea Partnership Conservation District requirements

9-Why isn't the military required to clean up all old sites in Hawai'i before taking more land? Scores of old sites are left for decades in hazardous condition from unexploded ordnance and toxins.

Re. NARS designation—without it, years of care and protection could be undone, both for Kulani, and for nearby lands, because fences cross property lines. With NARS, there would be a "larger area with more diverse types of habitat" facilitating "long-term ecosystem preservation". [NARS proposal]

Kulani areas proposed for NARS are mostly undisturbed. Kulani has "probably the finest and highest quality forest on the island". It has provided "a research site for many studies". "The montane mesic ecosystem in this ecoregion is not represented in any other NARS, and contains many endangered species that are not found in other NARS that contain this ecosystem." [NARS proposal]

"Kulani has some of the highest densities of native forest birds areas on the island". Five or more of these birds may be declining and in need of protection. Kulani has "one of the most important remaining concentrations of endemic Hawaiian birds..." and is next door to "a potential Alala release site." [NARS proposal]

"...most of the area is above 5,000 feet, where climate restricts mosquitoes and development of malarial parasites..." This is crucial, with climate change forecasted to increase mosquito ranges. [NARS proposal]

NARS designation would help protect Kulani against many threats—

- pigs, mouflon sheep and goats
- small mammals that eat seeds and seedlings and threaten native plants
- rats and mosquitoes that threaten birds
- birds that "compete [with native species] spread invasive species, and act as disease reservoirs" [NARS proposal]
- yellowjacket wasps
- weeds—miconia, firetree, banana poka, yellow Himalayan raspberry, strawberry guava, palm grass, blackberry, Kahili ginger, clindemia
- extermination of species needed for invertebrate life cycles

The Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group and others are concerned about access for public use. Hunters may be concerned about fencing.

I support public use, but only if there is adequate protection for critical habitat and endangered species. This includes protection from noise, both for wildlife and for people seeking the peace and quiet of the outdoors.

Mahalo for considering my comments.

[1] Kat Brady. *Life of the Land*, 11-17-09 e-mail

[2] Kat Brady *Life of the Land*, testimony to BLNR 11-19-09

[3] Army UXO Investigators Gain Access to Kulani *Environment Hawai'i*, February 2010, p. 11

July 13, 2010

Emma Yuen
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Attn: Emma Yuen

As a private citizen, I support this proposal to expand Pu'u Maka'ala NARS to include portions of the Kulani Correction Facility. Over the last two decades DLNR has partnered with Kulani Correctional and the Three Mountain Alliance watershed to protect the rare species and habitats included in this proposal. Considerable resources and staff, including countless hours of inmate labor have been devoted to conserving and restoring this area and significant recovery is observed. By including portions of these lands into the Natural Area Reserve System, the State is assuring these efforts will continue in the future.

Also by transferring this portion of land from DPS to NARS, there is the potential for greater access to be provided to the public for low impact recreational activities in an area that previously closed to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Rhonda Loh

P.O. Box 
Hawaii National Park, HI, 96718



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Post Office Box 52
Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i 96718



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L1425(HAVO)

July 14, 2010

Ms. Emma Yuen
Natural Area Reserves System Enhancement Coordinator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Dear Ms. Yuen,

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO) supports the proposal for extending Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) to include portions of the Kūlani Correctional Facility, TMK (3) 2-4-008-009 which is currently set aside to the Department of Public Safety (PSD). The area contains biologically rich native mesic and wet forest that provides critical habitat for several endangered plants and wildlife. Over the last two decades Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has partnered with DLNR, Kūlani Correctional Facility and the other members of the Three Mountain Alliance (formerly Ōla'a-Kīlauea Partnership) to protect rare species and important habitats in the region. Perpetuation of native forest at Kūlani was identified as an essential step towards providing connectivity for species movement across the landscape and maintaining ecological integrity. Considerable resources, including substantial contributions from inmate labor, have been devoted to restoring Kūlani forest and significant recovery has occurred. By transferring portions of these lands into the Natural Area Reserve System, the State is assuring these efforts will continue in the future.

Sincerely,


Cindy Orlando
Superintendent

cc: Rhonda Loh
cc: Colleen Cole, TMA coordinator

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

Hawaiian Silversword Foundation
P.O. Box 1097
Volcano, HI 96785

14 July 2010

Chairperson, Division of Land & Natural Resources
Attn: Emma Yuen
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

To the Chairperson:

I write to provide technical input on the proposed expansion of Pu'u Maka'ala NAR to include the forested lands of Kulani, which are currently cooperatively managed for conservation by the Three Mountain Alliance (TMA). The proposed expansion will incorporate some of the more intact and healthy native forest ecosystems on Hawai'i Island. The ecosystems have been restored by the cooperative efforts of TMA, in ways that directly and substantially benefit the native plants and animals and thus serve as an exceptional legacy for the people of Hawai'i.

The Hawaiian Silversword Foundation (HSF) has worked closely with TMA since 1999 to reintroduce endangered Ka'u silverswords (*Argyroxiphium kauense*) to the Kulani lands, with a total of more than 3,000 seedlings having been reintroduced specifically within the area proposed for the NAR expansion. HSF has also worked with TMA in adjacent portions of Kilauea Forest to reintroduce four endangered lobeliads (*Clermontia peleana*, *Clermontia lindseyana*, *Cyanea shipmanii*, and *Cyanea stictophylla*). Several of the latter species are among the most critically endangered plants not only in Hawai'i but also the entire U.S. The Kulani lands proposed for the NAR expansion provide exceptional habitat for augmenting our reintroduction efforts with these and other endangered plants in the future.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Robichaux
President, Board of Trustees

Steven C. Hess, Ph.D.
P.O. Box [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Alanui I'iwi
Volcano, HI 96785

Laura Thielen, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809
ATTN: Emma Yuen

Dear Chairperson Thielen:

15 July, 2010

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed expansion of the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve to include the 6,660 acre Kūlani parcel. The Kūlani area will make a unique addition to the Natural Area Reserve System for at least two reasons: the first is that it consists of mesic montane forest which is not represented by other Natural Area Reserves on Hawai'i Island; second, it contains endangered forest bird species endemic to Hawai'i Island not contained by other Natural Area Reserves, the Hawai'i 'Ākepa (*Loxops coccineus*), 'Akiapōlā'au (*Hemignathus munroi*), Hawai'i Creeper (*Oreomystis mana*).

The additional of Kūlani is also serendipitous in that the parcel has already had many problematic invasive species managed or eradicated. The Natural Area Reserve System will therefore not incur any additional start-up costs associated with managing this area and will realize substantial cost benefits from the cooperation and assistance of adjacent land managers in the Three Mountain Alliance. I believe the current staff and budget of the Natural Area Reserve System will not be burdened in any way by this proposed expansion.

I believe that if Kūlani were not included in the Natural Area Reserve System, it would revert to a forest reserve designation and management would languish as it has in all of the other forest reserves of Hawai'i Island. Fences would be vandalized or otherwise fall in disrepair and feral pigs and mouflon sheep would invade and degrade this area, ultimately causing the loss of endangered native plants and forest birds. This would be a tragic and irreplaceable loss of Hawaiian natural heritage.

My only misgiving is that the areas within the Kūlani parcel excluded from the proposed expansion of the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve also exclude all of the locations used by the endangered Nēnē (*Branta sandvicensis*). The systematic exclusion of protection for Nēnē, and possible jeopardy by the proposed new stewards is disturbing to me.

In summary, I believe the Natural Area Reserve System is the very best agency to manage all of the lands at Kūlani, and once again, I enthusiastically support the proposed expansion of the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve to include the Kūlani parcel.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Hess

**Comments of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Extension of the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve
to Include a Portion of the Kulani Correctional Facility
July 16, 2010**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is excited to support the extension of 6,600 acres (formerly Kulani Correctional Facility) to the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). TNC's mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the land and waters they need to survive. TNC is also working with local communities and our conservation partners throughout the island to protect and increase understanding of our precious watersheds.

This proposed extension to the NARS, Kulani, which translates to "Rising Towards Heaven" contains wet and mesic ecosystems that contain large tracts of open and closed koa and 'ōhi'a forest that shelter a lush understory of native plants and provides critical habitat for rare and endangered forest birds. This watershed is home to eleven (11) known endangered plant species, such as the Mauna Loa or Ka'ū Silversword and three (3) endangered honeycreepers: 'Akiapola'au, Hawai'i 'Akepa, and the Hawai'i Creeper.

The Three Mountain Alliance (TMA), which harbors management has done a successful job in fulfilling important management priorities:

- TMA with support from Kulani inmate crews have constructed a perimeter fence around the Kulani boundary, which reduced trespassing into the facility and protected and benefitted the surrounding environment.
- TMA removed feral pigs from Kulani and released them in a public hunting area to benefit hunters.
- Successful restoration of several endangered plant species.

The NARS staff has already been highly involved with these management activities as well as planning for the future projects and protection of this area, including control of new or incipient weed invasions to prevent degradation of the area.

Kulani is truly one of the core biodiversity areas left in Hawai'i and TNC would like to see this area in its highest level of protection.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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ALAN B. BURDICK
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 4
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0051
Tel. 808. [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

July 14, 2010

Via e-mail only: attn. Ms. Emma Yuen, dlnr@hawaii.gov
Chairperson and Members, Board of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Re: Extension of the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve, Island of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Board:

I join the many other individuals and organizations who are supporting the proposal of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to extend the boundaries of the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR to add some 6,600 acres of land that were formerly part of the Kulani Correctional Facility to the existing NAR. I rely on the proposal as set out at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/nars/pm.doc>, which I find to be an excellent introduction to the history of the existing NAR and the proposal. Your staff is to be commended for first-rate work both "on the ground" in preparing the actual proposal and in preparing the clearly analyzed write-up of the proposal on your website.

The proposal constitutes a wonderful and timely opportunity to protect native forest and habitat for native birds, invertebrates, and plants, pursuant to the legislative mandate that the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."

The proposal notes that the extension, if created, will protect *koa-'ohi'a* forest and *mamane-naio* forests on the windward slope of Mauna Loa. The area to be incorporated into the NAR by the extension is part of high-elevation native forest that provides habitat for the endangered '*ope'ape'a*' (bat), endangered *nene* (goose), endangered Hawai'i creeper, endangered Hawai'i '*akepa*, endangered '*akiapola'au*, endangered '*ua'u* (Hawaiian petrel), the candidate endangered band-rumped storm petrel, and other native birds, such as the '*apapane*, '*amakihi*, '*i'iwi*, '*elepaio*, '*oma'o*, '*pueo*, and '*kolea*. The area is also adjacent to a proposed release site for the critically endangered '*alala* (crow).

The ecosystems in this area are important for the representation of forest bird habitat, especially as climate change is forecasted to increase disease vector ranges. The area has some

of the highest densities of native forest birds areas on the Big Island. This is very important because most of the area is above 5,000 feet, where the cooler upland climate restricts the proliferation of mosquitoes and the development of malarial parasites.

Besides being a refuge for birds, the proposed extension area also provides habitat for eleven endangered plant species, and it is designated critical habitat for seven endangered plant species.

The proposed extension area has already benefited from many years of management for native resources, including the control of invasive species, fencing to keep introduced hoofed mammals from destroying the native forest, and legal protection of endangered species. Adding this area to the Pu'u Maka'ala NAR will help protect and enhance the public's investment.

I am most concerned about the following comments in DOFAW's comments at page 10 of its proposal (<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/nars/pm.doc>), which I consider to be critical:

Environmental Consequences of No Action

The environmental consequences of no action would be to lose an . . . area that is high quality and appropriate as a NAR on all measures, during a key time of transition. Environmental consequences of no action would mean less long-term management protection and future hurdles to implement proactive conservation projects such as active efforts for increase existing populations of endangered species. If access and management agreements did not favor conservation projects in the future for this area, management of Pu'u Maka'ala NAR as well as neighboring Kamehameha Schools land (Kilauea and Keauhou) would also be affected because the fence units cross land ownership boundaries.

Urgency

This window of opportunity to facilitate access and conservation management agreements may be lost if NAR designation does not occur during this transition of management jurisdiction.

Because of the dire consequences of a failure to act, and because of the urgency of this situation, it is most important that the Board proceed with approval of the proposal in the near future. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Alan B. Burdick



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

July 16, 2010

Laura Thielen, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Attn: Emma Yuen
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Via Email Transmittal: dlnr@hawaii.gov

Aloha. Mahalo nui loa for taking the initiative to protect native forest and wildlife habitat at the Kulani Correctional Facility by proposing to extend the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve on Hawai'i. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i strongly supports the proposal.

The opportunity to expand a Natural Area Reserve (or designate a new one is rare. We should take advantage of the closure of Kulani and give this special area the highest level of protection. Otherwise, the area will probably be used by another entity, and the native resources will likely be harmed if not lost.

The purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i." The proposed extension has already benefited by being managed by the Three Mountain Alliance; it is in relatively good shape. Adding this area to the NARS makes good ecological and economic sense - protecting the taxpayers' investment and building on the success of the Alliance.

The proposed extension area is a perfect addition to the NAR because of its substrates and vegetation at different elevations, habitat for a large number of rare and endangered species, and research value. It complements and significantly enhances the NARS, and does not duplicate the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. According to the proposal, the montane mesic ecosystem in this eco-region is not represented in any other Natural Area Reserve, and contains many endangered species that are not found in reserves outside this eco-region that support a montane mesic system. The area is also a valuable research site that has been used to test the effectiveness of management activities. It could also be used to compare different areas affected by climate change.

The proposed extension area is important because we are going to need high-elevation forests and reforested pasturelands for forest birds in the wake of climate change. According to the proposal, the area is important for the representation of forest bird habitat, especially as climate change is forecasted to increase disease vector ranges. The area has some of the highest densities of native forest birds on the island, and is very important because most of the area is above 5,000 feet, where temperature restricts mosquitoes and development of malarial parasites.



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife - Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

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Conservation Council for Hawai'i
July 16, 2010
Proposed Pu'u Maka 'ala Extension

This area is part of high-elevation native forest that provides habitat for the endangered 'ope'ape'a, endangered nene, endangered Hawai'i creeper, endangered Hawai'i 'akepa, endangered 'akiapola'au, endangered 'ua'u, candidate endangered band-rumped storm petrel, and other native birds, such as the 'apapane, 'amakihi, 'i'iwi, 'elepaio, 'oma'o, pueo, and kolea. The area is adjacent to a proposed release site for the critically endangered 'alala. The proposed extension also provides habitat for 11 endangered plant species, and is designated critical habitat for seven endangered plant species. It is a biological treasure that will enhance the NARS, and deserves the highest level of protection.

The area was part of the Kulanī Correctional Facility from 1946 to 2009, and public access was very limited. NARS designation would likely increase public access to the general area for appropriate and compatible uses, such as management activities, cultural practices, nature enjoyment, and research. As a Natural Area Reserve, permitted public uses will be allowed if they are consistent with the purposes of the NARS.

Please designate this area as part of the Natural Area Reserves System. Thank you for the opportunity to support this proposal.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Ziegler



July 16, 2010

Aloha Chairperson Yuen,

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the extension of the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. KAHEA strongly supports the protection of this important and fragile native forest. We urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to ensure protection of this area by managing this area as one contiguous parcel. Portions of the former Kulani Correctional Facility should not be transferred to the Department of Defense for inconsistent uses.

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a network of kupuna, cultural practitioners, scientists, teachers, and other concerned individuals working to protect Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural resources. We have long supported the Natural Area Reserve program.

As you know, the 'Ola'a Forest Reserve is home to an ancient, vibrant landscape that is both ecologically important and culturally significant. Protection efforts in the current Pu'u Maka'ala NAR have allowed giant o'hi'a, hapu'u, and naio to flourish and many rare and endangered native birds to thrive. Because of these protection efforts, a massive forest has been allowed to age into an interdependent network better able to withstand natural disasters and disease. Protecting this exceptional habitat, not only means these native flora and fauna will continue to survive in the world, but also means that the unique cultural practices associated with these species will continue to be perpetuated for generations to come.

It is crucial that the Department increase its protection efforts in this portion of the Ola'a forest. Since the closing of the Kulani Correctional Facility and the transfer of 200 inmates to Arizona, the surrounding forest has not received the consistent and skilled management that the staff and prisoners provided. We are concerned that the proposal to transfer operations of the prison facility to the Department of Defense actually creates a liability for the Department and the public trust resources in this area. Seventy five children and a few adult staff will not be able to provide the kind of knowledgeable management services once provided by those at the Kulani Correctional Facility.

PROTECTING

NATIVE HAWAIIAN

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AND OUR FRAGILE

ENVIRONMENT

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KAHEA: the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. KAHEA translates to english as "the call."

We urge the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to stand up for the irreplaceable natural and cultural resources of this area of the Waiakea forest by managing this region as one contiguous parcel and urging against the transfer a portion of it to the Department of Defense.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miwa Tamanaha', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Miwa Tamanaha
Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Townsend', with a cursive script.

**Marti Townsend
Program Director**